

“POWER AFRICA” & PARTNER COUNTRY ENERGY IN THE NEWS

June 1 – June 14, 2014

Article Summaries & Full Clips

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IN THE NEWS: Featured “Power Africa” Articles

June 1 – June 14, 2014

POWER AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS

[Power Africa - Nigeria: U.S. Launches New Initiative to Boost Energy in Nigeria, Five Other African Countries](#)

June 4 | Daily Independent (Lagos)

The U.S. has announced a new energy innovation tagged "Beyond the Grid" to boost energy and address supply shortages in Nigeria and five other African countries. The US Secretary for Energy, Ernest Moniz, said this on Wednesday at the ongoing US-Africa Energy Ministerial conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

[Power Africa: Ethiopia - U.S Continues to Extend Technical Assistance for Ethiopian Energy Initiatives: Secretary Moniz](#)

June 5 | Ethiopia News Agency

The U.S government will continue to provide technical support for energy initiatives in Ethiopia, Secretary of Energy Ernest J. Moniz said. In a press conference he gave yesterday with Water, Irrigation and Energy Minister of Ethiopia in connection to the U.S- Africa Energy ministers meeting, the Secretary said the U.S will continue to provide technical support through its laboratories and agencies.

[U.S.-Africa energy ministerial meeting convened in Ethiopian capital](#)

June 13 | Coastweek

Ethiopian Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, noted that lack of access to modern energy is a significant constraint to social and economic development in many parts of the African continent.

[Power Africa: US lauded in Africa for new coal emission proposal](#)

June 4 | The Washington Post (Associated Press)

Leaders at a U.S.-Africa summit on energy congratulated and thanked the United States for a new Obama administration proposal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, the U.S. secretary of energy said Wednesday.

[Power Africa: US-backed scheme lines up investors for African energy projects](#)

June 5 | Out-Law.com

Plans to encourage more than \$1 billion in investments for innovative energy infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa have been announced by US energy secretary Ernest Moniz.

[Power Africa: Video - USADF Collaborates for Power Africa](#)

June 4 | Womenetics YouTube

Shari Berenbach explains how partnership is the key to success for Power Africa, the initiative that aims to double

sub-Saharan Africa's access to electricity and consequently improve the lives of women drastically. Governments, foundations and corporate partners like General Electric are working in concert to tackle this goal.

BEYOND THE GRID

[Opinion - Bringing 'Power Africa' from Pledges to Projects](#)

June 9 | AllAfrica.Com

Aubrey Hruby is a visiting Fellow at the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council reviews the importance of the Power Africa's new program, Beyond the Grid, with recommendations for improvements in three areas – project focus, a fund for 'Pre-Developers', and the creation of an advisory board with business prowess.

[Energy Made Easy – New US project to boost energy access in sub-Saharan Africa](#)

June 4 | energylivenews.com

A new programme to increase energy access in sub-Saharan African countries, including Kenya and Nigeria, has been launched by the US Government.

[Kenya to Benefit From Beyond the Grid](#)

June 4 | CAJ News

Kenya is poised to benefit further from an innovative initiative that has been launched under the framework of United States President

Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative.

[Opinion - President Obama and Private Investors Move \\$1 Billion Beyond the Grid](#)

June 5 | Huffington Post

For a while it seemed as though the Power Africa Initiative was more about powering oil and gas profits than delivering energy access to those that need it most. However, thanks to recent bipartisan leadership in the House of Representatives, this threat has passed, and the future for this initiative has become much brighter.

[Power Africa goes off-grid in Addis Ababa](#)

June 4 | DevEx

The U.S. Department of Energy Tuesday announced a new framework for investment — “Beyond the Grid”. The announcement could help assuage some environmentalists’ and pro-poor advocates’ fears that Power Africa investments lean too heavily on conventional and grid-connected energy projects and threaten to increase carbon emissions while neglecting rural communities that are often the most impoverished and underserved.

[U.S Initiative Aims to Create 20 Million Power Connections in Africa](#)

June 4 | Voice of America

The U.S. government is investing more than \$1 billion to create about 20 million new electricity connections in sub-

Saharan Africa as part of its “Beyond the Grid” Initiative.

[U.S. begins aggressive energy roll out in Africa](#)

June 3 | The Sun News

The United States of America on Tuesday in Addis Ababa embarked on an aggressive energy roll out in Africa, targeting two million households. Ernest Moniz, U.S. Energy Secretary said the plan was aimed at driving U.S. Government’s initiative investments in small-scale energy solutions. He added that it was unveiled at the U.S.Africa Energy ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa.

[US launches \\$1 billion push for off-grid Africa power](#)

June 4 | Yahoo News

US companies have promised \$1 billion for off-grid power projects in Africa, putting a growing focus on small-scale and renewable energy in the push to ease the continent's chronic electricity shortages.

AFRICA

[Namibia: Renewable Energy the Way to Go for Namibia](#)

June 12 | Namibian

The use of renewable energy sources is the best option for Namibia, if the country is to meet its increasing energy demand. This was said by the chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration.

[Djibouti - USAID to Support Djibouti's Labour, Energy Sectors](#)

June 4 | Sabahi (Washington, DC)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah on Tuesday (June 3rd) announced the agency's commitment to capacity building in Djibouti's labour and energy sectors.

[GE inks \\$1 billion deal with Angola](#)

June 6 | Connecticut Post

Only a day after the U.S. Export-Import Bank authorized \$1.1 billion to finance U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa, the Angolan government said Wednesday that it plans to buy trains and power generators valued at \$1 billion from General Electric.

[Power Supply - Nigeria Electricity Tariff, Lowest in Africa](#)

June 10 | Vanguard

Despite the recent increase in electricity tariff by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, economic analysts insist that Nigeria still has one of the lowest electricity tariffs in Africa.

[Interview: Private Capital Fuels Power Production - U.S. Energy Secretary Moniz](#)

June 2 | All Africa

Interview with U.S. Energy Secretary Moniz prior to a high-level meeting co-hosted by the governments of the United States and Ethiopia with African energy ministers, civil society and development

organizations, researchers and some 30 U.S. companies in the petroleum and energy sector.

[Unep to Assist EAC to Develop Clean Fuel Laws](#)

June 1 | Tanzania Daily News

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has said it will assist EAC member states put in place clean fuel laws by the end of this year. UNEP

Executive Director, Achim Steiner, told the independent East Africa News Agency in Nairobi this week that the region hopes to achieve a standard of 50 parts per million of sulphur in diesel fuels.

IN THE NEWS: Featured Partner Country Energy News

June 1 – June 14, 2014

ETHIOPIA

[Ethiopia Working to Increase Private Investment in Energy](#)

June 4 | Ethiopian News Agency

The government of Ethiopia is working in collaboration with private sector to develop its enormous geothermal energy potential, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy Alemayehu Tegen said. It is estimated that the country has the potential to generate at least 5,000mw power.

[MetEc to Produce 100mw Electric Power From Waste](#)

June 9 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency

Metal and Engineering Corporation (MetEc) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Addis Ababa city administration and the Ethiopian Electric Power Service to produce 100 MW of electric power from Addis Ababa's waste.

[Obama's 'Doing Business in Africa' campaign gains momentum](#)

AfricanManager.com

US President Barack Obama's 'Doing Business in Africa' campaign, aimed at increasing US investment in Africa, is gaining momentum ahead of an August Summit with African leaders.

Senior Obama administration officials, however, said while the US' commitment to engage in business is clear, achieving the desired goals would require serious groundwork.

[Towards Africa's "Energy Tower"](#)

June 7 | The Reporter

A review of Ethiopia's the Power Africa Initiative in light of the two-day US-Africa Energy Ministerial (AEM) meeting was held this week here in Addis Ababa.

[U.S. Works With Ethiopia On Renewable Energy](#)

June 4 | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency

United States of America has disclosed that it wants to work on renewable energy production in cooperation with Ethiopia. The country's Energy Secretary, Ernest Moniz talking to Premier Hailemariam

Desalegn in Addis Ababa, at AU Headquarters said that Ethiopia will be exemplary to Africa allowing the private sector participate in renewable energy production.

[World Bank Steams Ethiopia With U.S. \\$200 Million Geothermal Loan](#)

June 1 | Addis Fortune

The World Bank's board of directors, based in Washington DC, US, has approved 200 million dollars of credit for the Ethiopian government, in what is expected to be the last project financing for the year, to develop its potential geothermal sites at Aluto and Alalobad, in the rift valley of Afar Regional State.

GHANA

[Ghana Hydro Dam Becomes White Elephant](#)

June 3 | CAJ News Africa

The country is likely to face a power crisis as a result of dwindling water levels at the 400 megawatts (MW) Bui Hydroelectric Dam. The Bui Power Authority (BPA) confirmed the lowering water

levels.

[GRIDCo Builds 161kv Sub-Station At Mim](#)

June 9 | The Chronicle

To assure security of power supply to the Brong-Ahafo and parts of the Western regions, a 161 kilovolts sub-station has been built at Mim in the Asunafo North Municipality.

KENYA

[Firms reform to step up power output](#)

June 10 | Daily Nation

Energy firms have embarked on restructuring to fast-track the generation and uptake of additional 5,000 megawatts of electricity expected on the grid by the end of 2016. The Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) is scouting for head of geothermal development.

[In Kenya, schools lead renewable energy surge in remote areas](#)

June 9 | Thomson Reuters Foundation

A feature report on solar applications for rural schools. According to Kenyan officials, Kenya is one of the countries where the adoption of renewable technologies like solar home systems is highest in the world, tailing only China in terms of demand.

[Kenya among top renewable energy investors](#)

June 5 | Standard Digital News

Kenya is the second largest investor in renewable energy in Africa. It is, however, a distant second, with the investment value standing at a modest Sh21 billion (\$249m) last year

compared to South Africa. South Africa's renewable energy sector received investments worth Sh390 billion (\$4.9 b). South Africa's investments were the highest in the continent.

[Kenya outlines plans for 5,000 km of new power lines](#)

June 4 | Reuters

Kenya plans to add 5,000 km of high voltage power lines to its existing 3,767 km network by 2017 at a cost of about 200 billion shillings (\$2.28 billion) as it expands its power generation, the energy ministry said on Wednesday.

[Kenya to woo electricity investors at Africa Energy Forum](#)

June 10 | Daily Nation

Kenya will be bidding for foreign investments in electricity at the upcoming Africa Energy Forum scheduled to take place next week in Istanbul, Turkey.

Representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum are expected to outline measures the government has taken to transform investment policies and regulations, specifically those related to foreign direct investments.

[Nairobi to Host Key Power Summit](#)

June 9 | CAJ News Africa

The region's leading power utilities, investors and technology service providers will gather in Nairobi later this year for the East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC).

The annual event is scheduled for September 3-4.

[New Ge Initiative to Boost Power Generation](#)

June 11 | CAJ News Africa

Kenya is poised to benefit from General Electric's just-launched Distributed Power business, an initiative hailed as a key element of its larger commitment to powering Africa.

The commitment is part of the Power Africa initiative to help bring 5 000 MW of new electricity to Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania.

[New solar power generation model promises to cut costs](#)

June 9 | Daily Nation

A new method for generating solar electricity promises to lower the cost of power in Kenya. The initiative could enable companies that seek to generate power but do not have enough funds to realise their objectives.

[Power bills shock as new tariffs set to start next month](#)

June 9 | Daily Nation

Consumer electricity bills are set to rise steeply next month when the second phase of the billing structure that the energy sector regulator set last December comes into force. This will add to the burden of rising cost of living that started in January.

[Residents Warn Wind Power Firm On Project](#)

June 11 | The Star

RESIDENTS of Kinangop in Nyandarua county have issued a 14-day ultimatum to a foreign

company working on a 61-megawatt wind power project. They want the firm to leave the area. During a meeting held in Magumu on Monday, the residents directed staff of the Kinangop Wind Park Project to stop operations.

[Solar Lights Seller Cuts Prices On Vat Exemption](#)

June 3 | The Star

A Nairobi-based solar lights distributor has slashed its retail prices by 16 per cent to match last month's exemption from the Value Added Tax after the 2013 Act was amended. The amendment exempts solar-powered equipment and gadgets from the VAT in a bid to promote use of clean and renewable energy.

[Solar panel makers want imports taxed](#)

June 9 | Daily Nation

Local manufacturers of solar products are holding their breath hoping that the government will, through Thursday's budget speech, revoke its decision to exempt imported panels from the Value Added Tax. Investors are opposed to the exemption, which they say gives importers of finished products undue advantage.

LIBERIA

[LEC Disconnects 10,000 Homes](#)

June 12 | New Democrat

The abrupt disconnection of thousands of citizens by the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) has triggered stiff reaction from the Senate, with LEC management being probed.

[Official - LEC Loses 4,000 to Power Theft Daily](#)

June 10 | Heritage

Acting Information Minister Robert Kpadeh has disclosed that a power audit conducted by the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) across Monrovia shows the New Kru Town Community is the highest user of power in Monrovia. He said the power audit also established that the New Kru Town is involved in power theft, a situation which, he lamented, is causing the LEC to lose over US\$4,000 daily.

[World Bank Reaffirms Support to Electricity Connection](#)

May 31 | Heritage

The Country Director of the World Bank to Liberia, Madam Inguna Dobraja, has reaffirmed the Bank's committed to supporting the government's effort to increasing access to electricity throughout Liberia. According to Madam Dobraja, the Bank strongly believes that striking a balance for electricity service provision between rural and urban areas is critical to ensuring inclusiveness for a more equal and just society that the Government of Liberia (GoL) is trying to achieve.

NIGERIA

[Banks Invest N116 Billion in 36 Power Projects](#)

June 10 | Vanguard

Banks in Nigeria have invested about N115.73 billion in the funding of 36 power projects across the country in the last four years, under the Power and Airline Intervention Fund, PAIF. According to the report of

activities of the Development Finance Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, out of the total sum of N300 billion approved for the financing of power and airline projects, N233.16 billion was released to the Bank of Industry, Bol, and disbursed through banks with the 36 power projects getting N115.73 billion.

[BPE seeks electricity transformers manufacturing company in Nigeria](#)

June 6 | Nigerian Tribune

Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Mr Benjamin Ezra Dikki, has advised Shanghai Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Engineering Company Limited (SPTDE) to take advantage of the absence of electricity transformers manufacturing company in Nigeria to establish one.

[FG to Invest U.S. \\$1.6 Billion in Power Transmission](#)

June 12 | Daily Independent

The Federal Government on Thursday said it would invest 1.6 billion dollars to upgrade and expand the power transmission network. The Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, made this known when a delegation of the Bankers' Forum visited him in his office in Abuja.

[Lagos Canvasses Conservation of Energy, Power Resources](#)

June 12 | This Day

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola has canvassed conservation of energy and power resources in

the state, noting that it will help in managing the degree of power usage and reduce what each household spend on energy consumption.

[Nerc Didn't Consult Before Tariff Hike - NLC](#)

June 10 | Daily Independent

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has accused the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) of failing to consult with consumers before the recent hike in electricity tariff.

NLC President, Abdulwaheed Omar who spoke at a stakeholders meeting organized NERC in Abuja, noted that the regulatory body increased tariff without due consultation with the NLC and members of the public.

[World Cup: Electricity consumers appeal for stable power supply](#)

June 6 | Guardian News

Electricity consumers in Lagos State have urged the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to ensure regular power supply during the forthcoming FIFA 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

TANZANIA

[Forum Demands for More Local Content in Gas Industry](#)

June 12 | Tanzania Daily News

Delegates to the 7th Gilman Rutihinda Memorial Lecture at Bank of Tanzania (BoT) have urged that the country integrate local firms into gas multinational supply chains.

[Railways, Roads Get Hefty Funding Priority](#)

June 12 | Tanzania Daily News

Presenting the State of the Economy Report in Parliament

today, a Minister for State in the President's Office (Social Relations and Coordination), Mr Stephen Wasira said the government will set aside 6.44tr/-, an equivalent of 32.8 per cent of the 2014/15 budget for development to finance major railway and road infrastructure projects and expand the agriculture and energy sectors to spur growth. Mr. Wasira also expanded on the country's energy investments and efforts.

[Singida Wind Power Project Yet to Kick Up Dust](#)

June 7 | Tanzania Daily News

National Development Corporation (NDC) through the Ministry of Finance is seeking funds from Exim Bank of China to finance its Singida-based wind power project, the National Assembly heard on Friday.

IN THE NEWS - Full Clips

1. Power Africa - Nigeria: U.S. Launches New Initiative to Boost Energy in Nigeria, Five Other African Countries | Daily Independent (Lagos)
2. Power Africa: Ethiopia - U.S Continues to Extend Technical Assistance for Ethiopian Energy Initiatives: Secretary Moniz | Ethiopia News Agency
3. Power Africa: U.S.-Africa energy ministerial meeting convened in Ethiopian capital | Coastweek
4. Power Africa: US lauded in Africa for new coal emission proposal | The Washington Post
5. Power Africa: US-backed scheme lines up investors for African energy projects | Out-Law.com
6. Power Africa: Video - USADF Collaborates for Power Africa - YouTube
7. Beyond the Grid: Bringing 'Power Africa' from Pledges to Projects | AllAfrica.Com
8. Beyond the Grid: Energy Made Easy – New US project to boost energy access in sub-Saharan Africa | energylivenews.com
9. Beyond the Grid: Kenya to Benefit From Beyond the Grid | CAJ News
10. Beyond the Grid: Opinion - President Obama and Private Investors Move \$1 Billion Beyond the Grid | Huffington Post
11. Beyond The Grid: Power Africa goes off-grid in Addis Ababa | DevEx
12. Beyond the Grid: U.S Initiative Aims to Create 20 Million Power Connections in Africa | Voice of America
13. Beyond the Grid: U.S. begins aggressive energy roll out in Africa | The Sun News
14. Beyond the Grid: US launches \$1 billion push for off-grid Africa power | Yahoo News
15. Africa - Namibia: Renewable Energy the Way to Go for Namibia | Namibian
16. Africa: Djibouti - USAID to Support Djibouti's Labour, Energy Sectors | Sabahi (Washington, DC)
17. Africa: GE inks \$1 billion deal with Angola | Connecticut Post
18. Africa: Power Supply - Nigeria Electricity Tariff, Lowest in Africa | Vanguard
19. Africa: Private Capital Fuels Power Production - U.S. Energy Secretary Moniz | All Africa
20. Africa: Unep to Assist EAC to Develop Clean Fuel Laws | Tanzania Daily News
21. Ethiopia: Ethiopia Working to Increase Private Investment in Energy | Ethiopian News Agency
22. Ethiopia: MetEc to Produce 100mw Electric Power From Waste | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency
23. Ethiopia: Obama's 'Doing Business in Africa' campaign gains momentum | AfricanManager.com
24. Ethiopia: Towards Africa's "Energy Tower" | The Reporter
25. Ethiopia: U.S. Works With Ethiopia On Renewable Energy | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency
26. Ethiopia: World Bank Steams Ethiopia With U.S. \$200 Million Geothermal Loan | Addis Fortune
27. Ghana: Ghana Hydro Dam Becomes White Elephant | CAJ News Africa
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29. Kenya: Firms reform to step up power output | Daily Nation
30. Kenya: In Kenya, schools lead renewable energy surge in remote areas | Thomson Reuters Foundation
31. Kenya: Kenya among top renewable energy investors | Standard Digital News
32. Kenya: Kenya outlines plans for 5,000 km of new power lines | Reuters
33. Kenya: Kenya to woo electricity investors at Africa Energy Forum | Daily Nation
34. Kenya: Nairobi to Host Key Power Summit | CAJ News Africa

35. Kenya: New Ge Initiative to Boost Power Generation | CAJ News Africa
36. Kenya: New solar power generation model promises to cut costs | Daily Nation
37. Kenya: Power bills shock as new tariffs set to start next month | Daily Nation
38. Kenya: Residents Warn Wind Power Firm On Project | The Star
39. Kenya: Solar Lights Seller Cuts Prices On Vat Exemption | The Star
40. Kenya: Solar panel makers want imports taxed | Daily Nation
41. Liberia: LEC Disconnects 10,000 Homes | New Democrat
42. Liberia: Official - LEC Loses 4,000 to Power Theft Daily | Heritage
43. Liberia: World Bank Reaffirms Support to Electricity Connection | Heritage
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45. Nigeria: BPE seeks electricity transformers manufacturing company in Nigeria | Nigerian Tribune
46. Nigeria: FG to Invest U.S. \$1.6 Billion in Power Transmission | Daily Independent
47. Nigeria: Lagos Canvasses Conservation of Energy, Power Resources | This Day
48. Nigeria: Nerc Didn't Consult Before Tariff Hike - NLC | Daily Independent
49. Nigeria: World Cup: Electricity consumers appeal for stable power supply | Guardian News
50. Tanzania: Forum Demands for More Local Content in Gas Industry | Tanzania Daily News
51. Tanzania: Railways, Roads Get Hefty Funding Priority | Tanzania Daily News
52. Tanzania: Singida Wind Power Project Yet to Kick Up Dust | Tanzania Daily News

“Power Africa” Coverage: June 1 – June 14, 2014

1. Power Africa - Nigeria: U.S. Launches New Initiative to Boost Energy in Nigeria, Five Other African Countries | Daily Independent (Lagos)

URL Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406041465.html>

June 4, 2014

The U.S. has announced a new energy innovation tagged "Beyond the Grid" to boost energy and address supply shortages in Nigeria and five other African countries. The US Secretary for Energy, Ernest Moniz, said this on Wednesday at the ongoing US-Africa Energy Ministerial conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The theme of the conference is Power Africa Beyond the Grid: Increasing Access through Small-Scale Energy Solution.

Moniz said that more than 240 million people live without electricity in rural and semi-urban communities across the six countries targeted by the project. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the "Beyond the Grid" will establish small-scale power projects and is part of President Barrack Obama's Power Africa initiative announced in South Africa during his visit in June 2013.

The project is expected to provide power to communities and help in meeting the target of the Power Africa initiative within five years. The initiative by the U.S Government will involve the private sector, World Bank and African Development Bank, to generate additional 10,000 MW of electricity in Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, Liberia, Ghana and Tanzania. It is also expected to attract one billion dollar in investment and connect 20 million households and commercial entities.

Moniz said, "over five year period, 'Beyond the Grid' will partner with over 27 investors and practitioners that have committed themselves to invest over \$1 billion into off-grid and small-scale solutions to this underserved market.

"These private sector commitment will be significant in helping Power Africa meet and exceed its objective to provide access to 20 million new connections for households and commercial entities."

He said the initiative would unlock investment and growth for off-grid and small-scale energy solution, adding that the 'Power Africa' had already supported 20 small-scale energy projects.

"Beyond the Grid will expand this significantly, facilitating \$500 million in new private sector investments to blend with donor and private capital," Moniz said.

Nigeria's Minister of Power and Energy Development, Prof Chinedu Nebo is among the participants at the two-day conference.

2. Power Africa: Ethiopia - U.S Continues to Extend Technical Assistance for Ethiopian Energy Initiatives: Secretary Monizas | Ethiopia News Agency

Source URL: http://213.55.98.22/ena/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=2160:us-continues-to-extend-technical-assistance-for-ethiopian-energy-initiatives-secretary-monizas&Itemid=260#.U5mZXGQW1qw

June 05, 2014

Addis Ababa - The U.S government will continue to provide technical support for energy initiatives in Ethiopia, Secretary of Energy Ernest J. Monizas said.

In a press conference he gave yesterday with Water, Irrigation and Energy Minister of Ethiopia in connection to the U.S- Africa Energy ministers meeting, the Secretary said the U.S will continue to provide technical support through its laboratories and agencies.

"As far as technical support we ... through our laboratories, through our agencies like the trade and development agency are happy to continue to provide technical support to all of these energy initiatives" he said. He mentioned for example the Corbetti geothermal plant, the first independent power project in the country, supported by the Power Africa Initiative.

Water, Irrigation and Energy Minister Alemayehu Tegen on his part said Ethiopia is striving to develop its potential for renewable energy. It is undertaking energy projects with a capacity to generate 8,444mw power.

The country is supplying electricity to neighboring countries including Sudan and Djibouti. This is helping to enhance regional integration, he added.

3. Power Africa: U.S.-Africa energy ministerial meeting convened in Ethiopian capital | Coastweek

Source URL: <http://www.coastweek.com/3723-africa-04.htm>

June 13, 2014

ADDIS ABABA, (Xinhua) -- The U.S.-Africa Energy Ministerial Meeting opened on Tuesday under the theme, "Catalyzing Sustainable Energy Growth in Africa," at the African Union (AU) Headquarters in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa.

Speaking at the opening of the two-day meeting, Alemayehu Tegen, Ethiopian Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy, noted that lack of access to modern energy is a significant constraint to social and economic development in many parts of the African continent.

"Today one of the key challenges of achieving sustainable development is the issue of the provision of sustainable, reliable and affordable modern energy," underlined Alemayehu.

He stated that the ministerial meeting is organized to facilitate and increase energy business linkages between the U.S. and African countries. According to the minister, the two sides are expected to find growing win-win opportunities in the realization of their common aspiration for rapid energy development.

“This gathering will also provide an important occasion to understand the Africa energy situation and identify concrete mechanism for U.S private sector participation to expand renewable energy solutions and energy efficient technologies and harnessing natural gas resources,” noted the minister.

“The meeting will also highlight the progress on President Obama’s Power Africa Initiative and showcase African and the U.S. private sector energy solution through a U.S.-African expo center, “ he said.

Stating that development of energy resources and infrastructure is the prominent agenda across the continent, the minister underscored the need to strengthen efforts to overcome energy poverty on the African continent.

Recalling President Obama’s “Power Africa” initiative during his trip to Africa, an effort to double access to electricity in Sub-Saharan Africa, Ernest Moniz, U.S. Secretary of Energy, announced a new U.S. Government Power Africa sub-initiative called “Beyond the Grid.”

“Beyond the Grid will unlock investment and growth for off-grid and small-scale energy solutions for millions of households, businesses and public facilities in underserved communities in Africa,” said the Secretary. Moniz said that the U.S. Power Africa program already supports over 25 small-scale energy projects. “But, Beyond the Grid will expand this significantly- facilitating over 1 billion U.S. dollars in new private sectors investments,” he said, adding “This could blend donor and private capital, aggregating and de-risking small projects.”

These private sector commitments will help Power Africa meet and exceed its commitment to provide access to 20 million new connections for households and commercial entities, providing electricity to millions of households in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to the press statement from the U.S. Department of Energy. Over an initial five-year period, Beyond the Grid will leverage partnerships with 27 investors and practitioners committing to invest the one billion dollars into grid-off and small scale solutions for the underserved market, it said.

Close to 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have the access to modern-day electricity.

“This meeting is particularly important for Africa as it remains the continent with the least developed energy system, and modern energy access in the world. And the low modern energy access to productive applications is also threatening industrial development on the continent,” said Elham Ibrahim, AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy.

“We are gathered here for this important meeting to share ideas and experiences as well as strengthen our strategies and commitment in addressing the pressing challenges in the African energy sector,” she said.

Officially opening the meeting, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, underscored on the need to take innovative policy and investment measures in the energy sector to address the adverse effect of climate change that the energy sector is responsible for the highest level of annual emissions globally.

“The climate is changing with adverse effects for humans and life in general that energy sector is responsible for the highest level of annual emissions globally,” said the prime minister.

“Exploiting renewable resources and promoting and supporting renewable and efficient technologies and measures are required to be taken by all nations to meet a challenge of climate change,” he said.

4. Power Africa: US lauded in Africa for new coal emission proposal | The Washington Post

Source URL: http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/us-lauded-in-africa-for-new-coal-emission-proposal/2014/06/04/96cd3b7c-ebf4-11e3-b10e-5090cf3b5958_story.html

June 4, 2014

by Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Leaders at a U.S.-Africa summit on energy congratulated and thanked the United States for a new Obama administration proposal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants, the U.S. secretary of energy said Wednesday.

Ernest Moniz attended a two-day summit in Ethiopia to explore strategies to accelerate the development of clean energy sources and the adoption of energy efficient technologies on a continent where two-thirds of the population doesn't have access to electricity.

Moniz said he was surprised at how much those in attendance talked about climate change. The Monday announcement of President Barack Obama's proposed rule for the Environmental Protection Agency to cut carbon dioxide emissions by up to 30 percent by 2030 from 2005 levels was well received, he said.

Africa is viewed as being highly vulnerable to changing climate patterns, changes African leaders blame on the West.

Ethiopia's prime minister and the chief economist of the International Energy Agency both cheered the Obama administration on the step, Moniz said, in recognition that the U.S. decision "is critical for its leadership on the issue of global climate change."

Jacqueline McGlade, the chief scientist for the United Nations Environmental Program, which is based in Kenya, said she "wholeheartedly congratulates" the EPA for its decision to reduce coal emissions.

"It has immediate implication for health and more generally we would say it's a genuine contribution to greenhouse gas mitigation," McGlade said.

Nearly a year ago Obama, during a trip to Africa, announced a new venture called "Power Africa," a program aimed at doubling access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa, a goal hoped to be achieved in about a decade. The U.S. is making an initial \$7 billion commitment, with an additional \$9 billion lined up from private companies.

The meeting in Ethiopia this week builds on that announcement, and is an effort to help out the continent's energy infrastructure and provide electricity for economic development. Roughly 60 American companies took part in the summit.

Moniz said the motivation for the summit was not climate specific but said that Africa has extraordinary renewable resources, including hydro, geothermal and solar.

"So the discussion was not driven by carbon reduction but fortunately it was very aligned with that," he said.

McGlade said she sees huge potential across East Africa for geothermal power — potentially 6 gigawatts. And she said no country in Africa should be ignoring the potential of solar, though she cautioned that because Africa is seeing reduced rain because of climate change, hydro-generated power may become less reliable.

The scarcity of reliable power outside of major African cities is fueling a mass migration into the continent's large population centers. Making power more available on micro-power grids outside of major cities will give more people more opportunity for economic growth, she said.

5. Power Africa: US-backed scheme lines up investors for African energy projects | Out-Law.com

Source URL: <http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2014/june/us-backed-scheme-lines-up-investors-for-african-energy-projects--/>

June 5, 2014

Plans to encourage more than \$1 billion in investments for innovative energy infrastructure projects in sub-Saharan Africa have been announced by US energy secretary Ernest Moniz.

Moniz told a two-day ministerial-level meeting[1] to discuss energy and business opportunities in Ethiopia which 27 private sector investors and organisations had already committed to developing, including “off-grid and small scale” energy projects under the ‘Beyond the Grid’[2] scheme.

Moniz said the scheme will “exceed” commitments to provide 20 million businesses and homes with access to electricity which were made under the existing ‘Power Africa’ initiative[3], launched by US president Barack Obama in South Africa last year.

Over an initial five year period the new scheme is designed to make it easier to acquire financial and technical assistance, which Moniz said was “historically not available to small energy businesses”. According to Moniz, the scheme “will incorporate new financial tools, such as investment structures that blend donor and private capital, aggregating and de-risking small energy projects in Africa and making them available as a new asset class for investment at scale”.

Moniz said: “With close to 600 million people without access to modern-day electricity, it is clear that centralised grid access is not a comprehensive solution for these countries in one of the world's least urban continents. But through solutions including off-grid and small scale energy projects, we can bring electricity to these rural areas.”

In support of Beyond the Grid, the US African Development Foundation, GE Africa and the United States Agency for International Development have announced that they will jointly award up to \$1.8 million in grant funding over the coming months to “African-managed and –owned enterprises with renewable energy solutions”.

According to the US energy department (DOE), Power Africa “has already helped close almost 2,800 megawatts (MW) worth of transactions and has secured commitments for another 5,000 MW”. The DOE said this represented nearly 75% of the initial goal of developing projects to make an additional 10,000 MW of “cleaner, more reliable energy” available in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania. To date, Power Africa has attracted investments of more than \$15bn from the private sector for new projects in sub-Saharan Africa including “mini” electricity generating plants, the DOE said.

The US government has been stepping up efforts to increase trade with Africa and encourage US firms and institutions to invest in the continent's infrastructure.

The chairman and president of the Export-Import Bank of the US, Fred Hochberg, joined Moniz at this week's Ethiopia conference. Hochberg said the bank intends to be a "full partner" in Africa. Earlier this year, the bank announced[4] the appointment of 11 members to its 2014 sub-Saharan Africa advisory committee, to advise on the development and implementation of policies and programmes to support the bank's activities in the region and boost US exports.

Last month, US commerce secretary Penny Pritzker concluded a trade mission to Africa[5] to increase bilateral trade and investment in the energy sectors of Ghana, Nigeria and Ethiopia. Twenty US businesses took part in the DOC trade mission, which focused on investment opportunities in the energy sector.

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Regional Economic Outlook for Sub Saharan Africa[6], released last April, said economic activity in the region continued to be underpinned by large investments in infrastructure, mining and maturing investments.

However, the report said: "Pervasive energy subsidies have discouraged investment and maintenance in the energy sector in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, leading to costly and inadequate energy supply that is increasingly a bottleneck for economic growth." The report also called on countries in the region to reform energy subsidies, which it said "discourage investment in the energy sector".

6. Power Africa: Video - USADF Collaborates for Power Africa | YouTube

Source URL: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gn6j9t6Y5Y

USADF Collaborates for Power Africa

Published on June 4, 2014

Shari Berenbach explains how partnership is the key to success for Power Africa, the initiative that aims to double sub-Saharan Africa's access to electricity and consequently improve the lives of women drastically. Governments, foundations and corporate partners like General Electric are working in concert to tackle this goal.

7. Beyond the Grid: Bringing 'Power Africa' from Pledges to Projects | AllAfrica.Com

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406090008.html?viewall=1>

June 9, 2014

Addis Ababa — There is no debate that lack of access to energy is one of the greatest challenges facing Africa. Electricity is a prerequisite for large scale manufacturing and job creation. Countries like Uganda, Malawi, Sierra Leone provide less than eight percent of their populations with electricity, and demand across the continent is growing by double digits every year.

Without addressing the power deficiency, widespread poverty alleviation will remain beyond reach for most African countries. It is in the face of this overwhelming need that the Power Africa initiative was launched by President Barack Obama[1] a year ago this month. At last week's U.S.-Africa Energy Ministerial[2] in Addis Ababa, Power Africa's performance over its first year was in the spotlight.

According to Power Africa materials[3], \$14 billion has been mobilized from private sector partners. A 'Beyond the Grid' initiative[4] announced by Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz at the Ministerial pledged another \$1 billion from 27 renewable company and finance partners. However, Power Africa has yet to

meaningfully transform these promising pledges into projects and successful transactions. The large-scale successes claimed by the program to date - the wind project in Kenya, the Nigerian Power Privatization and the Ethiopian Corbetti[5] project - all were well in the works before Power Africa was conceived.

Should the Nigerian privatization process[6] succeed in transforming the country's power market, the credit will surely be due to the Nigerians. The process started five years ago and the technical assistance that U.S.AID is providing, while helpful, has certainly not been vital.

U.S. Government representatives were candid about the challenges they have encountered in their efforts to increase power generation by 10,000 MW in the six target countries. Fred Hochberg, chairman and president of the Export-Import Bank[7], noted that "deal flow under Power Africa has been non-existent" for Ex-Im. USAID Power Africa Coordinator Andrew Herscowitz encouraged his team to look critically at whether the initiative has had real impact on projects such as the 1,000 MW Corbetti geothermal project in Ethiopia.

Power Africa's contribution to these existing transactions to date is surely questionable. That said, there remains great opportunity for the program to double down and deliver results. In order to do so, I recommend that Power Africa advance its work in three main areas:

Push the Project Focus: While much of the important work that Power Africa is doing is on the bilateral technical assistance side, companies need detailed project information in order to seriously consider investing. I was hoping that the Ministerial would feature presentations on projects open to U.S. companies. Instead, conversations mainly focused on policy, governance and macro level country developments.

Help Raise a Fund for 'Pre-Developers': Elizabeth Littlefield, president of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation[8] (OPIC), explained that "lack of developers is the number one thing holding back power projects on the continent." The African context requires additional work before large, traditional developers can be engaged.

Projects that are getting done are being developed by small, nimble companies such as Kupanda Capital[9] and several Diaspora firms. These groups are acting on the visible need for power in particular countries, liaising with government officials, building the initial corporate and financial interest, and working toward the power purchase agreement (PPA) phase. Once there is a PPA, more traditional developers can come in and access the \$14 billion that has been pledged by Power Africa's private sector and financial partners. Unfortunately, many of these 'pre-developers' are not well financed and are unable to sustain themselves during the long project development process.

Create an Advisory Board with Business Prowess: The drivers of Power Africa in the administration have spent the last year coordinating the dozen relevant agencies and building strong working relationships with African governments. They are now putting together an advisory board which must include business people committed to advancing U.S. company projects on the continent so that the policy/technical assistance aspect of the Power Africa program is balanced by commercial gains. The consultants and regional transaction advisors hired by Power Africa and its board should be people with track records of successfully putting together projects and closing transactions, not just the regular USAID contractor set. It is certainly too soon to call Power Africa a failure. While lacking new resources, the initiative has certainly raised the profile of investments and partnerships in the energy sector in Africa. This high level attention is starting to encourage companies to look at African power opportunities for the first time.

The fact that there were over 30 new companies participating in the Ministerial was a small, but positive step. The companies that have been generating electricity in Africa far before Power Africa - GE, Symbion, AES (in some variation), Black & Veatch, and APR - bring hard earned experience to the table.

Power Africa will be on center stage at the President Obama's August Summit with African Heads of State in Washington. In the run-up, the administration will search for success stories and new projects to announce. All those with business interests in the power sector in Africa should see this as a major opportunity to partner with the program to advance specific projects.

It is time for the best minds to come together and help Power Africa succeed. We don't want Power Africa to quietly disappear like the administration's Global Health Initiative did in 2012. The need for electricity on the continent is too great and the potential for the U.S. companies to have meaningful impact is enormous.

Aubrey Hruby is a Visiting Fellow at the Africa Center at the Atlantic Council and is a consultant helping countries do business across African markets

8. Beyond the Grid: Energy Made Easy – New US project to boost energy access in sub-Saharan Africa | energylivenews.com

Source URL: <http://www.energylivenews.com/2014/06/04/new-us-project-to-boost-energy-access-in-sub-saharan-africa/>

June 4, 2014

Priyanka Shrestha

A new programme to increase energy access in sub-Saharan African countries, including Kenya and Nigeria, has been launched by the US Government.

The 'Beyond the Grid' scheme aims to form partnerships with 27 investors and practitioners committing to invest more than \$1 billion (£0.6bn) into off-grid and small scale solutions.

It will create an effective environment to increase financial and technical assistance that haven't been available to small energy businesses.

The project is expected to help President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative exceed its commitment to provide electricity to 20 million homes and businesses.

US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said: "With close to 600 million people without access to modern-day electricity, it is clear that centralised grid access is not a comprehensive solution for these countries in one of the world's least urban continents. But through solutions including off-grid and small scale energy projects, we can bring electricity to these rural areas."

Power Africa has so far helped close almost 2,800MW worth of projects and secured commitments for another 5,000MW.

9. Beyond the Grid: Kenya to Benefit From Beyond the Grid | CAJ News Africa

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406041190.html>

June 4, 2014

Nairobi — THE country is poised to benefit further from an innovative initiative that has been launched under the framework of United States President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative.

Energy Secretary, Ernest Moniz, has launched the Beyond the Grid initiative Ethiopia.

The United Nations Foundation, along with 26 other founding partners, have joined 'Beyond the Grid', the innovative programme for decentralized energy under the Power Africa initiative.

Over five years, the UN Foundation's Energy Access Practitioner Network along with other founding partners will help 'Beyond the Grid' leverage partnerships and direct investments of at least US\$1 billion into off-grid and small scale solutions in sub-Saharan Africa, helping to take innovative business models to scale and bringing electricity to an anticipated 20 million households and businesses.

Formally launched by President Obama in June last year, the initiative has already helped complete almost 2 800 MW worth of transactions and has secured commitments for another 5 000 MW, representing almost 75 percent of the initial goal of bringing an additional 10 000 MW of cleaner, more reliable energy to Power Africa's six focus countries - Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

The Power Africa initiative is a multi-stakeholder partnership among the United States government, governments in Africa, the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the private sector.

"With close to 600 million people without access to modern-day electricity, it is clear that centralized grid access is not a comprehensive solution for these countries in one of the world's least urban continents. But through solutions including off-grid and small scale energy projects, we can bring electricity to these rural areas," said Moniz in a statement following the launch of the initiative.

This comes barely two months after the Lake Turkana Wind Power project received Sh. 75 billion for the construction of the project from European Investments Bank EIB and six other banks. The project is expected to generate 300 Megawatts which will be able to save the country up to 150 million through fuel replacement costs.

10. Beyond the Grid: Opinion - President Obama and Private Investors Move \$1 Billion Beyond the Grid | Huffington Post

Source URL: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/justin-guay/president-obama-and-private-investors-move-1-billion-beyond-the-grid_b_5454015.html

June 5, 2014

Justin Guay

Associate Director, Sierra Club International Climate Program

Co-authored by Vrinda Manglik

For a while it seemed as though the Power Africa Initiative was more about powering oil and gas profits than delivering energy access to those that need it most. However, thanks to recent bipartisan leadership in the House of Representatives, this threat has passed, and the future for this initiative has become much brighter.

And while we welcome this shift in energy focus, it's what U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz announced just this week that has us really excited -- the first real leadership on clean energy access from the Obama administration by way of the Beyond the Grid initiative.

This new dedicated off-grid clean energy access program includes 27 new investors who, over the next five years, will have committed a combined \$1 billion exclusively for off-grid and small scale energy access solutions to African energy poverty. This increased energy access will reach homes, businesses, schools, and public places and will ultimately benefit the more than 240 million Africans currently living without electricity.

It's hard to understate just how big a shift this is for Power Africa. When it was first announced last year, less than 2 percent of the \$7 billion in energy investment was earmarked for off-grid solutions. At the same time,

large corporations like General Electric (GE) were eyeing it as an opportunity to increase their investments in dirty fossil fuels and not expand energy access. Many in civil society were openly skeptical about Power Africa's motives.

Beyond the Grid changes all that. It begins to align the Power Africa Initiative with what the International Energy Agency (IEA) has made clear is necessary to achieve universal electrification -- diverting over 60 percent of all new energy access finance to off-grid and mini-grid solutions. Now, thanks to Beyond the Grid, not only are those investment flows looking more balanced but the international community also has its first major political leadership recognizing the cheapest, fastest, and most effective tool for the energy access job -- off-grid clean energy solutions.

That's critical because while the off-grid clean energy sector has posted eye popping growth rates (an estimated 95 percent compound annual growth rate in sub-Saharan Africa according to Lighting Africa) and rapidly growing private investment, it's had very little help in the way of policy support. Instead, policymakers have continued to dump billions of dollars into centralized power plants and grid extensions that have done little to alleviate energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. As a result, off-grid clean energy entrepreneurs have been seemingly banging their heads against a brick wall of institutional inertia and are demanding \$500 million for their sector.

Now, this rapidly expanding energy sector finally has political momentum and a legacy-defining initiative behind it. If nothing else, Beyond the Grid will be a success for casting a spotlight on a booming market that has been under the radar for far too long.

But that's not nearly enough given how important this is to the president's legacy. While this is an important first step, it's time the Obama Administration put some skin in the game and announce a new loan guarantee program to back up Beyond the Grid. That will potentially unlock billions of dollars in private sector investments that will enable these entrepreneurs to finally deliver where the centralized grid has failed.

And at the end of the day, this isn't just about climate, it's about 21st century technological progress. Remember, mobile phones have leapfrogged centralized landline networks in Africa. That's why nearly every household in sub-Saharan Africa has access to a mobile phone and no one is proposing land lines for all to solve communications needs. The same can be true for the hundreds of millions that lack access to a centralized power grid.

Beyond the Grid is the very first initiative to recognize that it's time to make a break with the status quo and finally light the lives of hundreds of millions of people. Here's to moving beyond failure, and here's to moving beyond the grid.

11. Beyond The Grid: Power Africa goes off-grid in Addis Ababa | DevEx

Source URL: <https://www.devex.com/news/power-africa-goes-off-grid-in-addis-ababa-83621>

June 4, 2014

By Michael Igoe

The U.S. Department of Energy Tuesday announced a new framework for investment — “Beyond the Grid” — a partnership with 27 “investors and practitioners” who commit to direct \$1 billion towards off-grid and small scale energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa, in support of President Barack Obama’s Power Africa initiative.

The announcement could help assuage some environmentalists’ and pro-poor advocates’ fears that Power Africa investments lean too heavily on conventional and grid-connected energy projects and threaten to

increase carbon emissions while neglecting rural communities that are often the most impoverished and underserved.

U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz announced the new framework Tuesday at the U.S.-Africa Energy Ministerial co-hosted by the governments of Ethiopia and the United States in Addis Ababa. U.S. Agency for International Development [4] Administrator Rajiv Shah, African Development Bank [5] Director Alex Rugamba, U.S. National Security Council Senior Director Gayle Smith and other notable public figures are participating in sessions that span topics related to access to energy for women, governance and natural gas utilization, among others.

“With close to 600 million people without access to modern-day electricity, it is clear that centralized grid access is not a comprehensive solution for these countries in one of the world’s least urban continents. But through solutions including off-grid and small scale energy projects, we can bring electricity to these rural areas,” Secretary Moniz said in a statement.

Overseas Private Investment Corp. [6] President and CEO Elizabeth Littlefield presented Wednesday a set of guidelines for power purchase agreements, intended to make them more “bankable” in the eyes of potential investors. A multi-agency effort to produce those guidelines — which Devex detailed in March [7] — arrived at a set of “key elements [8] for attracting financing to energy projects,” according to a statement from OPIC.

“Bankable power purchase agreements are key to unlocking private and public sector capital needed to build generation capacity across the continent — which is the goal of Power Africa,” said Littlefield in a statement released ahead of her address at the ministerial.

Read more on U.S. aid reform online, and subscribe to The Development Newswire [9] to receive top international development headlines from the world’s leading donors, news sources and opinion leaders — emailed to you FREE every business day.

About the author

Michael Igoe is a Global Development Reporter for Devex. Based in Washington, he covers US foreign aid and emerging trends in international development and humanitarian policy. Michael draws on his experience as both a journalist and international development practitioner in Central Asia to develop stories from an insider's perspective.

12. Beyond the Grid: U.S Initiative Aims to Create 20 Million Power Connections in Africa | Voice of America

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406050336.html>

June 4, 2014

By Anita Powell

The U.S. government is investing more than \$1 billion to create about 20 million new electricity connections in sub-Saharan Africa as part of its "Beyond the Grid" Initiative.

The African continent has the world's lowest rates of electrification, a fact that caught the attention of U.S. President Barack Obama when he visited the continent last year. So he announced an ambitious plan to electrify 20 million households in six countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria and Tanzania.

U.S. Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz visited the Ethiopian capital this week to formally launch the program. From there, he spoke to VOA, and said even basic electricity can light up many lives.

"In villages, or rural families who have no electricity, a remarkably small amount is a life-changer. It changes the quality of life very, very dramatically," he said. "If you just think about what young people can do in terms of reading at night, etcetera in a safe and clean and safe environment ... So it is really across the board, and clean energy opportunities in Africa are really immense."

The "Beyond the Grid" Program has pulled in more than two dozen international investors and will cost more than \$1 billion. Much of its work will go towards serving people who live off the traditional electric grid, and to investigate clean energy options like solar and geothermal power.

Officials also say the project is looking to unlock the energy potential of rising African nations like Angola, which is the continent's second-largest oil producer, and Mozambique, which is in the midst of a natural gas boom.

U.S. Export-Import Bank chairman Fred Hochberg said six countries have been named in the initiative, but many others will benefit, either from technical advice or from regional partnerships.

"This really covers all of sub-Saharan Africa. The six countries have an additional degree of technical assistance and some planning engaged in those six countries," he said. "But in no way is this initiative limited to six countries, it is across the sub-Saharan continent and many of the projects we are looking at and are more active in are in a multitude of countries."

Hochberg said regional businesses are also likely to gain from the initiative.

"This really, this power initiative, primarily I also see as a benefit is that it diversifies these economies," he said. "I was just in Angola, I just met with President dos Santos, who is looking to go forward with a rail infrastructure and a power increase, and that is the first step in diversifying that economy away from being so solely dependent on the exportation of hydrocarbons. So power becomes really the keystone, or the building block, for diversifying the economy, and as I think the secretary said, making sure that you begin to improve the daily lives of people."

Moniz also pointed out that increased access to electricity is not just a matter of convenience and industry. He said a stable energy supply can have far-reaching implications.

"This is an aside, not so relevant to Africa at the moment, but let me also note that, frankly, particularly being driven by current events in Europe, in the Ukraine, etc., we also see in the United States how the energy insecurity of our friends and allies is a national security problem for us," he said. "So the issue of energy, energy security, not only for ourselves, but also for our friends and allies is a very important national security issue."

Moniz, a nuclear physicist, also noted that African nations have inquired about expanding their capabilities with small, pre-fabricated nuclear-generating facilities. He said this is not likely in the near future, the United States is only planning to install such a facility of its own in 2022.

13. Beyond the Grid: U.S. begins aggressive energy roll out in Africa | The Sun News

Source URL: <http://sunnewsonline.com/new/?p=66306>

June 3, 2014

(ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia) - The United States of America on Tuesday in Addis Ababa embarked on an aggressive energy roll out in Africa, targeting two million households.

Ernest Moniz, U.S. Energy Secretary said the plan was aimed at driving U.S. Government's initiative investments in small-scale energy solutions. He added that it was unveiled at the U.S.Africa Energy ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa. He said the new energy plan comes as part of a follow-up to President Barack Obama's Power Africa Plan, which targets power investments in six African countries. The countries include Nigeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia and Tanzania. Moniz said at least 27 private investors had committed to invest one billion dollars into the plan to provide affordable power connections to some 20 million people.

He said the programme tagged 'Beyond the Grid', was part of the U.S. "Doing Business in Africa" campaign, a new foreign policy focused on boosting international trade.

Moniz said the 'Doing Business in Africa' plan would also focused on increasing U.S. firms investments in Africa.

AU Commissioner for Energy ElHam Ibrahim lauded the launch of several plans to increase energy access in Africa.

He called on the U.S. to urgently consider extending its Power Africa plan to more countries.

Ibrahim said the Sustainable Energy for All was launched by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon in 2012 and the EU-Africa Energy Partnership was being executed. He said the U.S. plan should build upon the German Energy Ministry's plan which has offered 50 million Euros to countries in East Africa.

14. Beyond the Grid: US launches \$1 billion push for off-grid Africa power | Yahoo News

Source URL: <http://news.yahoo.com/us-launches-1-billion-push-off-grid-africa-234353238.html>

June 4, 2014

Washington (AFP) - US companies have promised \$1 billion for off-grid power projects in Africa, putting a growing focus on small-scale and renewable energy in the push to ease the continent's chronic electricity shortages.

President Barack Obama's administration announced commitments by 27 investors as it moves forward on a goal of doubling electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa, where a lack of power has been a key impediment to improving education and public health.

"With close to 600 million people without access to modern-day electricity, it is clear that centralized grid access is not a comprehensive solution for these countries in one of the world's least urban continents," Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said Tuesday on a visit to Ethiopia, according to a statement.

"But through solutions including off-grid and small scale energy projects, we can bring electricity to these rural areas," he said.

The commitments, which will total more than \$1 billion over five years, will include investments in solar and small-scale hydro power stations, training of African specialists and crowdsourcing of funds to support local power providers.

John Podesta, a counselor to Obama, said that falling costs of renewable energy as well as advances in power storage and other technologies had made off-grid options increasingly attractive.

"While the market is still young, it holds great promise to follow the mobile phone in leapfrogging centralized infrastructure across Africa," Podesta wrote on a White House blog.

Obama, on a trip to Africa a year ago, announced that the United States would mobilize \$7 billion in mostly private funds over five years to bring electricity to at least 20 million more homes and businesses. It is the latest major US initiative for sub-Saharan Africa after former president George W. Bush championed action against AIDS and other diseases.

The electricity effort enjoys broad US support, with the Republican-led House of Representatives approving legislation last month with an even more ambitious goal of bringing electricity to 50 million Africans. But corporations have pushed for US-backed financial institutions to ease restrictions against funding of carbon-intensive projects that contribute to climate change, saying it is unrealistic to ramp up generation in Africa without significant investments in gas and power grids.

Environmentalists have countered that the initiative offers a chance to try a new approach amid predictions that Africa's poorest will be hit hard by climate change.

Justin Guay of the Sierra Club environmental group hailed the administration announcement as a "big shift," as off-grid energy was initially a small part of Obama's Power Africa initiative. But he said the investment was just a first step and called for further funding of off-grid projects.

15. Africa - Namibia: Renewable Energy the Way to Go for Namibia | Namibian

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406120490.html>

June 12, 2014

by Absalom Shigwedha

THE use of renewable energy sources is the best option for Namibia, if the country is to meet its increasing energy demand.

This was said by the chairperson of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics, Natural Resources and Public Administration.

Ben Amathila explained that due to the shortage of energy, Namibia is using N\$1,7 billion annually to buy power from other countries, while it could save this money by turning to renewable energy sources, such as solar energy.

"We pay too much for fossil fuel and not renewable energy. We have the sun and biomass, although the technology is not well developed," said Amathila.

He stated that with a small population of 2,2 million people, poverty and unemployment in the country can be tackled by providing low-income households with a loan to have a solar panel for domestic energy uses and sell the surplus to the grid.

Such an initiative will create cleaner and safer energy and at the same time, create jobs. "The sun does not belong to anyone and does not cost anything. It is a potential we have but are very reluctant to embrace," said Amathila.

He made this call when he officially launched a book, titled 'Powering Namibia into the future - Towards Sustainable Energy Production' in Windhoek recently. The book is a compilation of 24 articles and offers a multi-faceted insight into Namibia's energy issues giving information about different ways of energy production, the protection of the environment and mitigation of climate change.

Absalom Shigwedha is a freelance environmental journalist.

16. Africa: Djibouti - USAID to Support Djibouti's Labour, Energy Sectors | Sabahi (Washington, DC)

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406050141.html>

June 4, 2014

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah on Tuesday (June 3rd) announced the agency's commitment to capacity building in Djibouti's labour and energy sectors.

Shah met with Djiboutian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Mahamoud Ali Youssouf during his visit to the country, intended as a follow-up to a meeting between US President Barack Obama and Djiboutian President Ismail Omar Guelleh in Washington, D.C., last month.

"As a result of our work together, Djibouti has witnessed extraordinary gains. In the past decade alone, we have seen Djibouti's maternal mortality cut by half and its primary school enrolment jump by 25%," Shah said in a statement.

"In support of our shared priorities, USAID will be investing in programmes to support the development of Djibouti's labour force and energy sector," he said. "Working hand-in-hand with the government of Djibouti, these targeted investments will unlock opportunity, reduce extreme poverty and promote innovation."

The planned initiatives include job training programmes and support to encourage investment in the renewable energy sector.

17. Africa: GE inks \$1 billion deal with Angola | Connecticut Post

Source URL: <http://www.ctpost.com/news/article/GE-inks-1-billion-deal-with-Angola-5532970.php>

June 6, 2014

By Richard Lee

Only a day after the U.S. Export-Import Bank authorized \$1.1 billion to finance U.S. exports to sub-Saharan Africa, the Angolan government said Wednesday that it plans to buy trains and power generators valued at \$1 billion from General Electric.



But a spokeswoman for the bank said Wednesday that the \$1.1 billion in funding is not for financing the GE agreement.

The announcement of the Angola-GE deal and bank CEO Fred Hochberg[1]'s visit to the country is coincidental, according to Export-Import Bank spokeswoman Linda Formella[2], who reiterated that the \$1 billion deal is not part of the bank's \$1.1 billion funding package.

"There is no authorization at this time. It takes some time for a transaction like this to be approved by our board," she said.

A spokeswoman for Fairfield-based GE said she could not comment on the Angolan government's comments.

"GE looks forward to working in Angola to provide transportation and power solutions, said Jennifer Erickson[3], spokeswoman for GE Transportation[4]. "We have a long-term relationship with Angola that dates back to 1967 and we look forward to furthering our relationship with the country."

Following Hochberg's three-day visit to the country, Angola's President Eduard Dos Santos[5] said he supported the GE deal.

The bank already has approved funding of two Boeing 777 aircraft from the U.S., with the first arriving in 2015 and the second in 2016, through a partnership with Angolan Airlines[6].

The U.S. has instituted its Power Africa initiative, in which Ex-Im Bank[7] will provide \$5 billion to help fund private investment in energy projects across the continent.

The Export-Import Bank is committed to expanding U.S. trade with sub-Saharan Africa, home to seven out of 10 of the world's fastest growing markets, Hochberg said in a statement Tuesday.

"U.S. exporters are eager to realize the tremendous opportunities in this region, and the bank is helping them create and sustain American jobs by increasing their exports to Africa," he said.

The deal between GE and Angola aligns with an announcement by the U.S. Department of Energy that the government is launching a framework under President Obama's Power Africa initiative to increase energy access for underserved populations across sub-Saharan Africa. Over an initial five year period, Beyond the Grid will leverage partnerships with 27 investors and practitioners committing to invest over \$1 billion into off-grid and small scale solutions for this underserved market.

"Beyond the Grid will help to expand the work the U.S. Government is already doing through Power Africa to bring electricity to citizens of sub-Saharan Africa," U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz[8] said in a statement. "With close to 600 million people without access to modern-day electricity, it is clear that centralized grid access is not a comprehensive solution for these countries in one of the world's least urban continents. But through solutions including off-grid and small scale energy projects, we can bring electricity to these rural areas."

Brian Langenberg[9], principal in Langenberg & Co., said the deal pales in comparison to GE's \$160 billion in annual revenue, commenting that the arrangement is mostly part of the company's global marketing strategy.

18. Africa: Power Supply - Nigeria Electricity Tariff, Lowest in Africa | Vanguard Source

URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406100776.html?viewall=1>

June 10, 2014

By Michael Eboh

Despite the recent increase in electricity tariff by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, economic analysts insist that Nigeria still has one of the lowest electricity tariffs in Africa.

In an email response to Vanguard on the recent hike in tariff, Mr. Oludare Oduale, an analyst with Nextier Capital Limited, maintained that countries like Liberia, Bukina Faso, Senegal, Mali, among others, have higher electricity tariffs than Nigeria.

He said the anger over the hike stems from a lack of understanding of the way electricity tariffs are calculated.

According to him, the public frustration that has followed the announcement of the new tariff is driven more by the fact that there is shortage of electricity supply rather than the quantum of the increase in tariff.

He said, "Most Nigerians understand that there could be tariff increases in the early stages of the privatised industry and that the prices will correct downwards as the sector increases its capacity.

"The frustration seems to have been exacerbated by the botched communication around the power sector privatisation that made it seem as if there will be instant increase in power availability as soon as the new owners of the privatised power companies signed the dotted lines of the sales agreement."

Oduale further argued that stable power supply cannot be separated from tariff review, noting that without a viable electricity industry, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to attract the quantum of required investment.

He explained that a cost-reflective tariff is what is pivotal to the viability of the industry, adding that tariff reviews are conducted to ensure customers do not pay more than they should and that the industry remains viable and attractive for investments.

Continuing, he said, "The increase in electricity tariff, that took effect from June 1, 2014, is infuriating to the consumers, media commentators, and labour unions in Nigeria. The fact is that NERC is statutorily expected to review the fundamental variables that drive the electricity tariff calculations twice a year (June 01 and December 01) and any significant change in the variables should be reflected in the new tariffs.

"The tariff reviews are conducted to ensure customers do not pay more than they should and that the industry remains viable and attractive for investments. The tariff reviews are driven by economic variables including inflation rate, exchange rate, gas price, and available generation capacity. As is obvious, these variables are not static. Any plus or minus five per cent change in the aggregate variables is a trigger for a tariff review."

Also speaking, Mr. Okwy Okeke, Managing Director, Continental Alarms, said the 8.3 per cent increase is not much, considering the rate of inflation and the fact that it has been long since such review was carried out.

He said, "The new rate may not even factor into the near constant N30,000 per month I pay for my office at Dolphin. My power bill in the United States fluctuates between \$40 and \$180 per month, depending on the season.

"Note that rates are not fixed as they are in Nigeria. Power rate in the early morning rush period is not same by late morning, among others. Maybe that is something we can throw into the conversation to help load management/shedding.

"Tariff increase will not be as high as individual power generation, as is presently the case. Then few, if any, will be happy to pay more for same.

"The 8.3 per cent increase? What is inflation rate this year, and when was the last rate review? It is important we bring up the quality of our public conversation beyond the mundane.

"The struggle is how to make a people raised under a pseudo-socialist country come to terms that we are now a capitalist temple."

19. Africa: Private Capital Fuels Power Production - U.S. Energy Secretary Moniz | All Africa

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406022660.html?viewall=1>

June 2, 2014

interview

Washington, DC — This week the governments of the United States and Ethiopia are co-hosting a high-level meeting of African energy ministers, civil society and development organizations, researchers and some 30 U.S. companies in the petroleum and energy sector. The June 3-4 meeting in Addis Ababa will showcase African and U.S. energy policies and discuss best practices, including the acceleration of energy efficient technologies, as well as assessing progress on President Barack Obama's Power Africa initiative. In his Washington DC office, before leaving for a stop in Algeria en route to Ethiopia, U.S. Secretary of Energy Dr. Ernest Moniz talked to AllAfrica's Olubunmi Oloruntoba. Excerpts from the conversation:

The theme of the energy ministerial is 'Catalyzing Sustainable Energy Growth in Africa'. The 'Electrify Africa' legislation sponsored by Republican Representative Ed Royce, with 117 bipartisan cosponsors, calls for a comprehensive U.S. policy to promote more access to electricity across Africa. It passed the U.S. House of Representatives on 8 May and now goes to the Senate for consideration. What can you tell us about it?

The good news is a recognition both in the administration and the Congress that Africa needs a very strong focus on developing its electricity infrastructure - for delivery of what you might call base load power, but also to have distributed power, especially in more rural parts of Africa. I think we're all on the same page that this is a real need.

It will be important, also, for the world, in terms of how we address things like global warming challenges, because this will enable a lot more clean energy in Africa, and it will enable economic development that is good for everybody. We see both need and an opportunity for U.S. and African business.

Do you expect it to pass before the White House summit with African leaders in August?

We in the administration don't put big bets on the timing of Congressional action! Obviously, it would be great. All the support we could get in a timely way would be good, but the energy meeting in Addis is preparatory to the meetings here in Washington D.C. in August.

What kind of energy production are you promoting? Infrastructure to extend the power grid? Oil and gas? Renewables like solar and hydropower? What's the mix?

It's all of the above. Here in the United States, President Obama keeps emphasizing that we are pursuing an 'all of the above' strategy. So when we go to the ministerial, certainly part of it will be infrastructure. Part of it will be renewables – solar, hydro, geothermal in various parts of the continent. Also, of course, we recognize that in parts of Africa there's increasing potential for hydrocarbon production – and part of it is our companies, our government, our financial institutions helping those countries to develop their hydrocarbon resources in a sustainable way. That helps build their economies and helps support the global supply of hydrocarbons.

Here in the United States, we had a major boom in both natural gas and oil production. In our case, the big increases have come largely from what's called unconventional production – shale gas and shale oil, for example. One of the very important emphases that we as the administration place is producing that oil and gas with a reduced environmental footprint. That's one part of sustainability: making sure that the environmental footprint is minimized.

That's experience that we have. That's one of the things that we can help bring to Africa – making sure that the production there has as little environmental impact as possible, while having as much economic impact as possible to help develop the economies.

How does President Obama's Power Africa initiative fit into the ministerial meeting?

Power Africa^[2], first of all, is the high priority of the president. As you know, he announced it last year on his trip to Africa. It starts out with six countries – three in the west and three in the east [Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia]. Clearly, we work with other countries besides those six, and in [Addis] there will be many more countries than those six involved.

We will be talking about the need to bring electricity to sub-Saharan Africa in large-scale. Power Africa is a catalyst for that. We're going to need more resources than governments can bring to bear. The international energy agency estimates that there will be a need for \$300 billion of investment in sub-Saharan Africa and energy infrastructure over the next 15 years.

So a big focus of the ministerial meeting be what it will take to mobilize a lot of private capital to invest in the energy infrastructure of Africa. How can U.S. institutions work with African countries to leverage private capital to come in?

There will be an accompanying expo with 30 U.S. companies and a comparable number of African energy companies. To have governments and the private sector – private capital – work together to amplify the resources that we have would make a huge impact on electrification in Africa over the next decade.

What other goals do you have for the ministerial meeting?

There are many other features of the ministerial that are worth mentioning. One is a very important focus on rural development and distributive power, which can include solar and other technologies.

A very big attraction of solar is that it can be modular. Even a small amount of electricity can make a huge difference in the lives of rural families, providing lighting, providing easier conditions for children to study and do other things.

And we should integrate that with efficiency. For example, take lighting; using new technologies like LED lighting, which is taking off dramatically through cost-reduction, by requiring only one sixth of the power of a traditional light bulb. You can get a lot more use of electricity or decrease the amount that you need, which saves in a rural environment as well as the urban environment.

The second major issue is true everywhere in the world, but in the ministerial we will have a special focus on human capacity building, and in particular a focus on women. In my previous life, when I was at MIT [the Massachusetts Institute of Technology], I worked with the Department of Energy to start a 'women in clean energy' activity. At our first meeting the energy minister from South Africa, a woman, came to give a keynote speech.

Leadership Africa USA tells us that African energy ministers are asking whether this meeting in Ethiopia will be a 'one-off' or whether it will be part of a continuing process.

Clearly, we need to not just visit Addis and find it a pleasant for a few days. We need to have follow through. That's where a couple of points come in. One is that the ministerial in Addis will feed into the summit of African leaders in terms of specific proposals going forward. Secondly, this focus on getting the financial institutions working with private companies – U.S. and African – is where we expect to have lots of follow through in the years going forward

What will you count as success from the ministerial meeting?

I think the summit will succeed if it makes these links, company to company, U.S. and Africa, and companies to our financial institutions.

We expect, again, roughly 30 US companies to be at the expo taking part in various panels and, probably more important, making contacts between African and U.S. companies. That's where the big infrastructure building is coming from.

Our job is to facilitate it, which is why I really want to emphasize that we are going [to Addis] with five of our major government institutions that help support private sector activity, like the Export/ Import Bank, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Millennium Challenge, the Agency for International Development (USAID). All of these play roles in advancing specific projects in a variety of ways. Some are grants. Some are loan guarantees or risk management activities that can help the financing of specific projects all across Africa. That, really, in the end, is the long-term success story – kicking off those private sector activities.

20. Africa: Unep to Assist EAC to Develop Clean Fuel Laws | Tanzania Daily News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406022345.html>

June 1, 2014

THE United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has said it will assist EAC member states put in place clean fuel laws by the end of this year. UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner, told the independent East Africa News Agency in Nairobi this week that the region hopes to achieve a standard of 50 parts per million of sulphur in diesel fuels.

"EAC is pioneering the African continent in implementing policy and legislative frameworks that will promote the switch to a green economy," Steiner said on the sidelines of a media briefing of the upcoming United Nations Environment Assembly that will take place between June 23 and 27 June, 2014 in Nairobi.

"The proposed 300 megawatt wind farm in northern Kenya is an example of the region's commitment to embrace green energy," he said. The economic bloc faces a variety of challenges in its quest to achieve clean fuels. He noted that the only oil refinery in the region, which is based in Kenya, needs to be upgraded so it produces low sulphur fuels.

Steiner, who is also the United Nations Under Secretary General, said that fuels can be monitored more closely if it is imported from modern refineries. Kenya's Permanent Representative to the UNEP, Martin Kimani, said that Kenya has made immense strides in transiting to a green economy. Kimani said Kenya is accelerating geothermal developments.

"A high percentage of our Gross Domestic Product is from nature tourism," he said.

Power Africa Partner Country Energy News Coverage: June 1 – June 14, 2014

21. Ethiopia: Ethiopia Working to Increase Private Investment in Energy | Ethiopian News Agency

Source URL: http://213.55.98.22/ena/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=2152:ethiopia-working-to-increase-private-investment-in-energy&Itemid=260#.U5mdD2QW1qw

June 4, 2014

Addis Ababa - The government of Ethiopia is working in collaboration with private sector to develop its enormous geothermal energy potential, Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy Alemayehu Tegen said. It is estimated that the country has the potential to generate at least 5,000mw power.

According to Alemayehu, Ethiopia is working to increase private involvement in the energy sector. He mentioned as an example the increasing private involvement in solar energy.

Regarding geothermal energy, he mentioned the 1,000mw Corbetti geothermal plant, the first independent power project. Reykjavik Geothermal, a U.S- Icelandic private developer is building the power plant, located at Corbetti Caldera, 200 km south of Addis Ababa.

The four billion USD project is going to be built in two phases. Up on completion, it will be Africa's largest geothermal facility. The first 10mw plant is expected to be operational by 2015, while first 500mw by 2018. The second 500mw power is then expected to be generated by 2021. This project dovetails nicely with Ethiopia's ambitious plans to become a carbon-neutral economy by 2025.

Alemayehu hopes that private investment in the energy sector will boost in the near future, since cost would not be a constraint for companies to engage in the sector.

Private companies can access to the fund the World Bank has committed for energy development through the Development Bank of Ethiopia.

22. Ethiopia: MetEc to Produce 100mw Electric Power From Waste | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406100256.html>

June 9, 2014

By Nesru Jemal

Metal and Engineering Corporation (MetEc) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Addis Ababa city administration and the Ethiopian Electric Power Service to produce 100 MW of electric power from Addis Ababa's waste. MetEc has also signed an agreement last week with the Canadian company that provides the technology for generating electric power from waste. MetEc is expected to begin operation next month once it finalized the agreement with the Canadian company.

The waste power generators will be located at the Akaki-Kaliti and Bole-Arabsa solid waste sites. The project's 75% power will be generated from Addis Ababa's solid waste and the **remaining 25%** is known to be from the city's liquid waste.

MetEc is preparing to receive fourteen hectares of land for the project. The finance for the project will be provided by the Canadian company.

23. Ethiopia: Obama's 'Doing Business in Africa' campaign gains momentum | AfricanManager.com

Source URL: http://www.africanmanager.com/site_eng/detail_article.php?art_id=22085

US President Barack Obama's 'Doing Business in Africa' campaign, aimed at increasing US investment in Africa, is gaining momentum ahead of an August Summit with African leaders.

Senior Obama administration officials, however, said while the US' commitment to engage in business is clear, achieving the desired goals would require serious groundwork.

"America's commitment to this issue is clear," said Ernest Moniz, the US Energy Secretary. "I hope our discussions can begin to answer...basic questions. What has to happen for US private business to increase their investments in Africa's energy sector?"

Secretary Moniz, who met 30 ministers of energy from across Africa during an Energy Ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 3-4 June, called for a review of potential obstacles to energy financing in Africa. The US official said addressing the shortfalls and creating a system to enable US government agencies and African governments to work together will break the barriers.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, currently constructing electricity projects with an installed capacity of 8,400 Megawatts, said Ethiopia had experienced the energy investment challenges.

"The private sector has not shown interests in power projects due to low returns...there is still long-term perceived risk associated with private sector investment in the energy sector. This dialogue will accelerate the opportunities available in Africa's energy sector," Hailemariam said.

African countries require US\$300 billion worth of investments in the energy sector alone, the kind of investment that Moniz said would require the private sector.

“We have had discussions on how to attract large investments. The emphasis is on the importance of regional solutions especially on the use of the natural gas and how it could help the regional economies,” Moniz said at the conclusion of the US-Africa Energy ministerial talks.

African Union (AU) regional energy and infrastructure plan is focused on developing nine major electricity generation projects, and includes four power transmission lines across Eastern and Southern Africa and a West African gas pipeline originating from Nigeria and extending far north to Algeria. The combined portfolio of the projects under the AU flagship Programme for Infrastructure Development (PIDA) is estimated at US\$40 billion, according to the AU Department of Energy.

President Obama, whose election caused excitement in Africa in 2008, is set to host 50 African heads of state for the First US-African Leaders Summit 5-6 Aug. in Washington.

During Secretary Moniz’s visit, the US Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank) announced US\$1.1 billion to finance US exports to Africa in the first seven months of 2014 fiscal year.

Ex-Im Bank President Fred Hochberg, who attended the Ministerial meeting, said the funds would help to create and sustain jobs by increasing American exports to Africa.

Ex-Im Bank executives said they expected to approve more loans to benefit small-business exporters of spare parts, consumer goods and other products.

24. Ethiopia: Towards Africa's "Energy Tower" | The Reporter

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406090517.html>

June 7, 2014

The two-day US-Africa Energy Ministerial (AEM) meeting was held this week here in Addis Ababa.

Co-hosted by the Government of Ethiopia and the Government of the United States, the theme of the ministerial meeting was: "Catalyzing Sustainable Energy Growth in Africa". African energy ministers, senior US government officials, multilateral development partners, regional and sub-regional African energy organizations, representatives of the academic community and civil society as well as US and African private sector leaders took part in the summit with the stated goal of providing support to energy development throughout Africa.

What benefits can Ethiopia gain from the AEM? What is the significance of the fact that the ministerial meeting was organized and hosted by Ethiopia? Did the concerned Ethiopian government officials and stakeholders accord due attention to the summit? And what is the level of awareness of each and every Ethiopian about the change that the energy sector can bring about in their everyday life?

These are some of the topical questions that can be raised in connection with the meeting. Ever since the government of Barack Obama announced its 7-billion USD Power Africa Initiative, which aims at doubling the number of people with access to power in sub-Saharan Africa by harnessing the considerable hydropower, solar, wind, geothermal and natural gas resources of the region, major energy companies have begun to evince keen interest in the continent. Ethiopia in particular is drawing the attention of many thanks to mega hydropower projects it is undertaking in the form of the Gilgel Gibe III and the Great Ethiopian Renaissance dams. Its huge potential is also making it Africa's energy hub.

The AEM facilitated the opportunity for face-to-face and break-out government-to-government, government-to-industry, and company-to-company dialogue and networking. The topics of discussion included clean energy technologies, increased power generation, rural electrification, regional integration, oil and gas development, policies and regulatory issues, investment opportunities, and financing. Ethiopia is currently executing large-scale power generation projects which can serve as a model for and benefit other African nations. Its enormous potential to produce electricity from hydropower, wind, solar and geothermal resources justifies the importance it has attached to renewable energy sources to power the climate-resilient green economy it has set out to build. If this potential is harnessed with the help of the required funding, it is bound to have a considerable impact on the country's GDP.

If Ethiopia is to harness properly its potential, it needs to make use of the inputs that this summit affords it. Accordingly, it is incumbent upon it to actively seek best practices, appropriate technologies, financing, technical assistance, and possible customers. As President Obama's Power Africa Initiative, among others, provides financial support to the use of renewable energy technologies, Ethiopia has to do its best to ensure that it benefits from the initiative by scaling up power generation from its portfolio of clean energy sources and deepening its role as the power pool of East Africa.

The concerned government officials and stakeholders in the energy sector have the obligation to reach out to international energy companies with a view to secure anything which is essential for the growth of the sector and the prominent role the country plays on the Africa renewable energy scene. In this spirit they have to recommit themselves to exploit the array of opportunities the just-ended AEM provided Ethiopia with and make Ethiopia Africa's center of gravity for energy as well.

Ethiopians know well the beneficial impact of the energy sector on their lives. Though the national electricity supply stands at close to 3,000 Megawatts, the 32 percent annual growth in demand has resulted in a large demand-supply disparity, denying the majority of the population adequate access to electricity. Aside from the detrimental effect it has on the economy and the provision of basic services, the mismatch has forced rural dwellers in particular to rely on firewood and animal dung for their energy needs. This consumption pattern has serious environmental ramifications in that it contributes to the depletion of forests and increased greenhouse gases emission. Hence, everyone concerned needs to appreciate that the country has to make use of the multi-faceted benefits that AEM avails to it.

25. Ethiopia: U.S. Works With Ethiopia On Renewable Energy | Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406050410.html>

June 4, 2014

By: Bilal Worku.

United States of America has disclosed that it wants to work on renewable energy production in cooperation with Ethiopia. The country's Energy Secretary, Ernest Moniz talking to Premier Hailemariam Desalegn in Addis Ababa, at AU Headquarters said that Ethiopia will be exemplary to Africa allowing the private sector participate in renewable energy production. He also expressed that Ethiopia has performed successfully on development projects carried out in cooperation with the United States.

Moniz said United States will continue working in providing finance which is the impediment for the private sector participate in renewable energy production. Prime minister Hailemariam Desalegn expressed that Ethiopia still needs the support of United States on rural electrification, capacity building and integrated infrastructure development.

Ethiopia has the capacity to generate 37 thousand mega watts of energy from water, wind, solar and geothermal sources by 2037.

26. Ethiopia: World Bank Steams Ethiopia With U.S. \$200 Million Geothermal Loan | Addis Fortune

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406060214.html>

June 1, 2014

By Mikias Merhatsidk

The World Bank's board of directors, based in Washington DC, US, has approved 200 million dollars of credit for the Ethiopian government, in what is expected to be the last project financing for the year, to develop its potential geothermal sites at Aluto and Alalobad, in the rift valley of Afar Regional State, on Thursday, May 29, 2014.

The loan will be financed by the International Development Association (IDA) and Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) of the World Bank trust fund.

The SREP, which was established to scale up the deployment of renewable energy solutions and expand renewables' markets in the world's poorest countries, is a targeted program of the Strategic Climate Fund, which is one of the two funds within the framework of the Climate Investment Funds. SERP aims to pilot and demonstrate the economic, social and environmental viability of low carbon development pathways. And Ethiopia is among the eight pilot countries.

"In addition to providing energy security, the project will support Ethiopia's efforts to build a climate change resilient green economy, by developing renewable energy sources with low carbon emissions," said Guang Zhe Chen, the World Bank country director for Ethiopia.

The finance, which will be employed to support the Geothermal Sector Development Project of the country, is envisioned to help fulfill the increasing demand for electricity by tapping into the substantial geothermal energy potentials, according to the official website of the Bank.

The project that will be implemented in two phases will develop the two geothermal sites:-Aluto and Alalobad and help establish an institutional framework for geothermal development during its first phase. During its second phase, electricity will be generated using the steam resources developed and identified in the first phase.

The Power generated from the geothermal plants will provide electricity directly to the grid and allow more households and businesses to connect at affordable rates. It will also provide energy to existing commercial consumers currently affected by the energy ration from insufficient generation capacity, according to the Bank. Total geothermal resource potential in Ethiopia is found in the Great Rift Valley and is estimated to be over 500Mwe according to the geological survey of Ethiopia.

The integrated energy policy of Ethiopia envisages electricity generation installed capacity of more than 20,000Mw by 2020 and it is mainly to be generated from renewable sources. The country has power generating capacity amounting to over 60,000Mw: 45,000Mw of hydropower, 10,000Mw of wind energy and 5,000Mw of geothermal energy. But the current power generation stands at 2,000Mw.

27. Ghana: Ghana Hydro Dam Becomes White Elephant | CAJ News Africa

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406031318.html>

June 3, 2014

By Masahudu Kunateh,

Accra — THE country is likely to face a power crisis as a result of dwindling water levels at the 400 megawatts (MW) Bui Hydroelectric Dam. The Bui Power Authority (BPA) confirmed the lowering water levels.

"The exceedingly high level of generation support that the Bui Generating Station (G.S) has been providing to the national electricity grid since the commissioning of the Bui plant has caused the Bui reservoir level to fall to the minimum operating level of 168 meters above sea level (masl)" , officials of the BPA explained.

The BPA is currently operating its generation plant at an over-draft rate of 3.66 million kilowatt hour(kWh) per day from November 2013 - about 2.5 times the target rate - in order to supplement existing generation.

In view of the depleted reservoir, the Bui is unable to maintain the high rate of power generation and production has had to be reduced in order to protect the turbines from potential damage, the Assistant External and Communications Relations Officer of BPA, Mawuli Fui Kwadzovia, added in a press release.

"This is necessary because it is imprudent to operate the generating plant below the minimum operating level of the reservoir (168 masl) as this unduly exposes the turbines to higher risks of cavitations damage," Kwadzovia said.

The hydrology of the Black Volta River, which expects inflows in May and June, does not favour the current situation.

28. Ghana: GRIDCo Builds 161kv Sub-Station At Mim | The Chronicle

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406092443.html>

June 9, 2014

To assure security of power supply to the Brong-Ahafo and parts of the Western regions, a 161 kilovolts sub-station has been built at Mim in the Asunafo North Municipality.

Briefing the media, the Techiman Area Manager of Ghana Grid Company Limited (GRIDCo), Ing. Benard Asante Gyan, narrated that previously, power was being supplied from Sunyani at 34.5 kilovolts, through a 63 kilometre transmission line to Mim, which was not reliable, hence the decision to have a substation to increase the capacity of the line to 161KV.

According to Mr. Gyan, the substation has a 33MVA transformer to supply communities in the two regions. He continued that capacitor banks had been installed at the Mim sub-station to increase supply and voltage. He said the substation will help connect about 500 communities in the Brong-Ahafo and Western regions. The current load on the newly installed transformer is only 11MVA, and GRIDCo has plans to install another 33MVA transformer within the year.

He further disclosed that the project was funded by the Government of Ghana, with a loan from US Eximbank, through the Ministry of Energy, at a total cost of \$18.8 million. The Head of Public Relations of GRIDCo, Mr. Albert Kwesi Quainoo, said the construction of the substation will support the government's

electrification project in the two regions. Already, distribution poles have been erected in most communities on the Sunyani-Mim corridor to extend power to the people in the area.

29. Kenya: Firms reform to step up power output | Daily Nation Source

URL: <http://www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/smartcompany/Firms-reform-to-step-up-power-output/-/1226/2341752/-/mr57o2z/-/index.html>

June 10, 2014

By IMMACULATE KARAMBU

Energy firms have embarked on restructuring to fast-track the generation and uptake of additional 5,000 megawatts of electricity expected on the grid by the end of 2016. The Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) is scouting for head of geothermal development.

Managing director Albert Mugo said the office holder will be tasked with ensuring the firm achieves its geothermal power-generation goals. "The office holder will be based in Olkaria. Geothermal power development has been on the forefront for us hence it is important that we have someone who is specifically dedicated to its development," said Mr Mugo in a telephone interview.

KenGen's power generation from geothermal resources is currently managed at two levels. The company's operations director oversees maintenance of geothermal development infrastructure while the business development and strategy director is in charge of the technical aspect which involves drilling. Reporting to the managing director, the head of geothermal generation will give regular updates on the firm's progress.

"We are trying to facilitate quick decision-making by having related departments report to one person who gives regular updates to the managing director," said Mr Mugo.

Eliminate delays

A supply chain department, directly reporting to the managing director, has also been carved out of the existing financial and commercial arm. It will ensure that procurement complies with the law. The move is expected to eliminate delays arising from procurement disputes in the implementation of power generation projects.

Besides KenGen, the management of Kenya Power has also presented a restructuring proposal to its board. If approved, the plan could see Kenya Power appoint 46 managers to handle electricity distribution in the counties.

Kenya Power boss Ben Chumo (above) said the proposed county managers will be tasked with creating electricity demand to increase the company's capacity to absorb the energy expected to come *on board with* completion of the 40-month generation plan launched last year. The proposal would also see Kenya Power's regional managers increased from the current six to nine to take care of the expected split of large regions such as western Kenya and Mount Kenya.

"The decision to assign managers to counties is adopted to enhance swift decision-making. We expect that they will be in office by September this year," Mr Chumo told Smart Company.

"We want to narrow movement of staff to counties. We also want to operate within the county boundaries in terms of procuring locally available products such as poles."

The county managers, Mr Chumo said, will include 19 deputy heads currently based at the central office whose positions will be scrapped. The fresh plan seeks to create a three-tier supervision system where

county bosses will report to regional managers who in turn will be expected to issue monthly updates to the central office.

Currently, the company's distribution business is based on regions which encompass several counties. Kenya Power is the country's sole electricity distributor. However, recently, industry analysts questioned its ability to absorb the 5,000MW. The firm has should be able to absorb this amount of power to avoid asking consumers to pay for capacities of idle plants.

KenGen, which is 70 per cent owned by the government, is expected to generate about half of the 5,000MW. The company is therefore said to be targeting to increase geothermal power generation to 700MW from the estimated 177MW currently.

Gas power plant

To meet its goal, KenGen will also step up generation from wind and diversify to other resources such as coal and natural gas. The company is in talks with Nebras Power of Qatar to set up a 500MW natural gas power plant at the Coast.

The current high energy costs have often been blamed for Kenya's slow pace of industrialisation as they put off potential investors, especially manufacturers who rely heavily on energy.

The government hopes to reduce by half the cost of electricity to \$9 cents per unit once the planned 5,000MW is hooked to the national grid.

30. Kenya: In Kenya, schools lead renewable energy surge in remote areas | Thomson Reuters Foundation

Source URL: <http://www.trust.org/item/20140609105034-hw17n>

Source: Thomson Reuters Foundation

June 9, 2014

byKagondy Njagi

SAMBURU, Kenya (Thomson Reuters Foundation) – The tolling of the evening bell signals the end of the day's classes at Donyo Wasin primary school. For a few adept pupils like Sotik Leleno, however, it ushers in the time for their private studies under the glow of solar powered lighting.

Leleno is among a growing number of young Kenyans who are benefiting from a government initiative to position primary schools in rural areas as renewable energy incubation centres.

At Donyo Wasin, villagers take shelter under acacia shrubs from the scorching sun as early as 9 a.m. The Kenya Meteorological Department estimates temperatures can peak as high as 35 degrees Celsius in the area.

But at Leleno's school, the sun is an ally. The government's Energy Regulatory Commission, in collaboration with partners, has installed solar panels on the school's rooftops.

The electricity generated ensures that Leleno can study well into the evening.

"After school I would join my age mates to go and take care of livestock," recalls the 12-year-old. "I now spend part of the evening doing homework at school. This was not possible at home."

Like many parts of rural Kenya, Donyo Wasin, a village in the country's Rift Valley region, remains unconnected to the national electricity grid. Poor roads and the long distance from the capital city – where energy connection decisions are made – have kept such comforts out of reach.

The Kenya Bureau of Statistics estimates that only 28 percent of Kenyans are connected to the national grid. And these lucky ones mostly live in urban centres, where there is easy access and good infrastructure, officials say.

However, working with communities, the government has passed a policy that aims to provide 60 percent of rural communities' energy needs from renewable sources by setting up primary schools – where many members of the community meet and interact – as incubation centres for renewable energy. Leleno's is one such school.

Leleno acknowledges that he is sometime feels lonely while studying away from his family home. But that that feeling could soon pass if the incubation centres achieve their vision of sharing the power generated at schools with neighbouring homes and other facilities, and providing other green sources of energy, effectively creating "climate villages".

"The idea is to equip climate villages with solar, wind and biogas units to not only promote learning but also to serve the community," explained Peter Odhengo, a treasury official.

According to Odhengo, a single megawatt of solar energy can power approximately 150 climate villages, depending on the level of consumption. But it is also costly to install, with a single megawatt of capacity costing about \$2 million, he says.

International funds are helping pay the cost. "This investment is provided for under international conventions," he said. "We are partnering with developed countries to invest in this project because it is part of solving the problem of global climate change."

The Africa Technology Policy Studies Networks (ATPS) says Kenya is on track to transition into a new low carbon global development agenda, which aims to meet energy needs without putting pressure on the environment in order that future generations will benefit too.

CHASING CHINA

According to Kenyan officials, Kenya is one of the countries where the adoption of renewable technologies like solar home systems is highest in the world, tailing only China in terms of demand. Nicholas Ozor, an official with ATPS, links the boom to a government policy which does not tax low-carbon technology.

By his estimation, unless a change in policy affects that current rate at which renewables are being adopted, Kenyans living on the margins will be the biggest beneficiaries of solar energy, because arid lands have reliable sunshine throughout the year.

"People living in very remote areas cannot access the national grid system, hence renewable energy is their only option," Ozor pointed out.

Not everyone is convinced. Critics argue that the current solar panels affordable in rural areas have the capacity to store only about 10 to 15 per cent of the solar energy they capture, and are not efficient enough. According to George Mwaniki of the National Environment Trust Fund, solar energy is not viable for small-scale investors because currently available systems would need to generate 10 times more energy to create a sufficient return on the investment.

“I think biogas is a perfect choice for producing alternative energy,” argued Mwaniki, who is also the director of research and publications at his agency. “But more research is being done to come up with locally viable ideas for renewables.”

The Energy Regulatory Commission says over 1,000 primary schools earmarked for the climate villages project have been fitted with solar installations. But officials say biogas and wind power units are also lined up for the incubation centres.

More like Leleno are counting on such flows of clean energy spending from the national government. But even with headway being made towards renewable energy, few reckon that the government will succeed without the help of development partners such as the Africa Development Bank, the World Bank and United Nations agencies.

“We appreciate the efforts of our partners because the government cannot by itself lift the standards required in marginalized parts of Kenya,” said Augustine Lembuonamati, a member of the Samburu district development committee.

Kagond Njagi is a freelance contributor for the Thomson Reuters Foundation, based in Nairobi and writing on climate change issues.

31. Kenya: Kenya among top renewable energy investors | Standard Digital News Source

URL: <http://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2000123800/kenya-among-top-renewable-energy-investors?pageNo=1>

BY MACHARIA KAMAU

June 5, 2014

Kenya is the second largest investor in renewable energy in Africa. It is, however, a distant second, with the investment value standing at a modest Sh21 billion (\$249m) last year compared to South Africa. South Africa’s renewable energy sector received investments worth Sh390 billion (\$4.9 b). South Africa’s investments were the highest in the continent.

The investments by the two African leaders are meagre in comparison to money pumped into renewable energy by US at \$35.8 billion, which was the largest investor in renewable energy globally in 2013. The investments by Kenya were also a paltry share of the total new investment in renewable power and fuels at \$249.4 billion in 2013. The investments are detailed in a new report dubbed Renewables 2014 – the Global Status Report.

“South Africa led the African continent, although it was down from \$5.7 billion the previous year, recording investment of \$4.9 billion (excluding research and development and small-scale projects). This was almost entirely in the form of asset financing for wind and solar power,” said the report backed by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

“The second largest investor in Africa was Kenya (\$249m), followed by Mauritius and Burkina Faso,” says the report. Despite the dismal investments in its energy sector, Kenya is seen to be making efforts in growing its electricity from renewable energy sources. The report ranks Kenya fourth globally in terms of the investments made to grow power generation from geothermal.

It follows after New Zealand, Turkey and the US, in the list of the countries that invested heavily in electricity production using geothermal. The report ranks the country tenth in terms of new generation capacity from geothermal added to the installed electricity generating capacity. According to the report, Kenya grew its energy capacity from geothermal by 8 per cent, adding some 36 megawatts to the grid from geothermal.

"Kenya is one of the fastest-growing geothermal power markets in the world," said the UNEP report. In 2013, the country added 36 MW of capacity at the Olkaria III complex. A further 16 MW was added to Olkaria III in early 2014, bringing the complex to a total of 110 MW. By early 2014, Kenya had another 280 MW of geothermal power capacity under construction that is expected to be commissioned in the course of the year.

32. Kenya: Kenya outlines plans for 5,000 km of new power lines | Reuters

Source URL: <http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL6N0OL3DE20140604>

June 4, 2014

By George Obulutsa

NAIROBI, June 4 (Reuters) - Kenya plans to add 5,000 km of high voltage power lines to its existing 3,767 km network by 2017 at a cost of about 200 billion shillings (\$2.28 billion) as it expands its power generation, the energy ministry said on Wednesday.

Only 31 percent of Kenya's 40 million people are connected to the grid, while businesses complain that frequent blackouts due to supply shortages and an aging transmission network raise costs by forcing them to have back-up generators. The government has already outlined plans to add 5,000 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity by 2017 to the existing 1,664 MW and aims to increase the proportion of Kenyans connected to the grid to 75 to 80 percent by the same date.

"Within this period, we will see about 5,000 km of 132 kV (kilovolt) lines put up, and ... many substations," Joseph Njoroge, the Energy and Petroleum Ministry's principal secretary, told a meeting to discuss the five-year strategy that runs to 2017. He told reporters the cost of putting up the extra lines was "in the region of 200 billion Kenyan shillings".

Njoroge said work had already begun on a new 400 kV power line linking the port city of Mombasa to Nairobi that would extend to western Kenya and onward to Tororo in Uganda. A 500 kV link between Ethiopia and Kenya is also under construction.

Njoroge said that at a later date, the links could also extend to Rwanda and Burundi, adding that cross-border connections would help cut shortages and help demand management.

As part of its plans to boost generation, Kenya plans to build a 700-800 MW natural gas-fired power plant and a 900-1,000 MW coal power plant. Njoroge said bids were being evaluated and the winners could be announced in three weeks.

"It is a very guarded process to ensure fair play and to ensure that the country gets value for money," he said.

33. Kenya: Kenya to woo electricity investors at Africa Energy Forum | Daily Nation

Source URL: <http://www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/smartcompany/Africa-Energy-Forum-electricity-investors/-/1226/2341744/-/c1f1l/-/index.html>

June 10, 2014

By IMMACULATE KARAMBU

Kenya will be bidding for foreign investments in electricity at the upcoming Africa Energy Forum scheduled to take place next week in Istanbul, Turkey.

Representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Petroleum are expected to outline measures the government has taken to transform investment policies and regulations, specifically those related to foreign direct investments.

“The need for countries to compete was highlighted at the World Economic Forum in Nigeria earlier this month when questions were asked about the ability of some countries to attract foreign private sector investment. “It is clear that for these nations, the credibility is there and that capturing investment is of paramount importance,” reads a brief on the event.

Traditionally, Africa has been the least attractive investment destination in the world in terms of power generation due to poor infrastructure that has made several projects “lack bankability”. Kenya will be represented by Ministry of Energy and Petroleum principal secretary Joseph Njoroge alongside board members from the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), director-general of the Energy Regulatory Commission Fredrick Nyang and bosses of other parastatals in the energy industry.

Besides Kenya, representatives from South Africa, Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania, Cameroon, Namibia, Ghana and Zambia are expected to attend. The Africa-Turkey co-operation is likely to take centre stage, given the choice of venue for the conference.

Kenya struck economic agreements with Turkey in April during President Kenyatta’s visit to the European country. Some of the deals were on the development of the energy industry. The Turkey forum comes at a time when the government is pursuing a plan to generate additional 5,000 megawatts of electricity in 40 months starting September last year.

Electricity cost

While about half of this capacity is expected to come from KenGen, the plan by the government shows that there are slots for independent power producers.

Kenya Power is currently implementing a Sh13 billion plan to refurbish its electricity supply network. Under the project, existing substations and distribution lines across the country will be upgraded and new ones set up in some areas. It is expected that the additional power will enable the government to cut by half the cost of electricity to \$9 cents per unit, hence attract investments in the manufacturing industry.

At the moment, according to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the manufacturing segment grew at a mere 4.8 per cent last year, despite its big potential to boost economic growth compared to agriculture and tourism which are prone to challenges such as weather, security and fluctuating prices in the international markets.

Nuclear energy

Besides plans to generate power from renewable sources such as geothermal and wind as well as cheap sources like coal and liquefied natural gas, Kenya also seeks to develop electricity from the capital-intensive nuclear energy. Under the nuclear energy programme, the government hopes to generate 1,000 megawatts by 2030.

The Turkey forum will offer the Kenya Nuclear Electricity Board an opportunity to showcase the progress it has made in setting up a legal framework to guide exploitation of nuclear energy resource.

34. Kenya: Nairobi to Host Key Power Summit | CAJ News Africa

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406100850.html>

June 9, 2014

By Anthony Langat

Nairobi — THE region's leading power utilities, investors and technology service providers will gather in Nairobi later this year for the East African Power Industry Convention (EAPIC).

The annual event is scheduled for September 3-4.

Kenyan utilities, including KENGEN, Kenya Power, KETRACO and the Ministries of Energy, are key partners again in what is the longest running power conference and expo in East Africa.

Large East African utilities such as Tanesco, UEGCL, UMEME, EEPKO and many more will also be present again this year.

EAPIC is expected to attract more than 1 000 attendees along with exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies, products and services. Last year, the East Africa Community revealed a \$64-billion dollar spending plan on joint power projects in the region for the next 25 years to generate eight times more power than is currently available.

"This shows a marked rise in confidence that the region has in itself but also by **investors in the** East African power market and is a welcome catalyst in ensuring a stable, future power supply that will drive the regional economy forward.

"EAPIC will gather industry professionals and regulators to seek out solutions on how the region is to meet these ambitious generation capacity goals," said EAPIC director Claire O'Connell.

35. Kenya: New Ge Initiative to Boost Power Generation | CAJ News Africa Source

URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406111542.html>

June 11, 2014

By Anthony Langat,

Nairobi — KENYA is poised to benefit from General Electric's just-launched Distributed Power business, an initiative hailed as a key element of its larger commitment to powering Africa.

The commitment is part of the Power Africa initiative to help bring 5 000 MW of new electricity to Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania.

GE has reiterated its corporate commitment to more reliable, local energy supplies that can promote greater economic development and security in urban and rural areas. With its new Distributed Power business, GE expects to include diesel technology in its electricity recipe for success.

"In areas of Africa where traditional grid service is poor or does not exist, we are seeing more customers seeking to install distributed power technologies that can help ensure that homes and businesses have more reliable supplies of electricity," said Lorraine Bolsinger, President and Chief Executive Officer of GE's Distributed Power, in a press release.

"GE's Distributed Power is committed to helping customers throughout Africa use more of their own domestic energy resources, which in turn enhances the economic security of the region for future generations."

GE's Distributed Power business focuses on power generation at or near the point of use, on or off the grid. The company is currently testing 2.6 MW diesel engines. While the company will start with diesel, the company mentioned other sources of power such as solar, wind, and natural gas as other sources for its 5 000 MW capacity addition.

36. Kenya: New solar power generation model promises to cut costs | Daily Nation

Source URL: <http://www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/smartcompany/New-solar-power-generation-model-promises-to-cut-costs/-/1226/2341746/-/jya1vhz/-/index.html>

June 9, 2014

By JOSHUA MASINDE

A new method for generating solar electricity promises to lower the cost of power in Kenya. The initiative could enable companies that seek to generate power but do not have enough funds to realise their objectives.

In the lease model designed by East Africa Solar, companies can only raise minimal upfront capital and a commitment to buy the energy once generated. The solar company participated in the construction of 1 megawatt solar power park opened at Williamson Tea in Kericho last week.

East Africa Solar managing director Guy Lawrence said the lease model would be adopted in the construction of another 1MW roof-mounted solar power park for an upcoming shopping mall on Thika Superhighway in Nairobi.

"The solar lease model requires the beneficiary company to commit a small upfront capital only. We develop the project to the required scale and the company commits to buy the power from the plant at an agreed tariff for between eight and 10 years," said Mr Lawrence.

Game-changer

The new leasing model could be a game-changer in Kenya's industrial scale solar power projects as more companies seek cheaper and green energy to reduce costs.

“This is the model we believe will unlock many more projects in the East African region,” said Mr Lawrence. In the case of Williamson Tea, the power project is expected to help the company save 30 per cent of its annual electricity costs.

This is according to Ishmael Sang, general manager of Changoi Tea Factory, a subsidiary of Williamson Tea. High energy costs have been blamed for expensive manufactured goods and exports into the regional market.

This, analysts say, makes Kenya’s products relatively more expensive than those from its main competitors such as Egypt and South Africa. The Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) has been lobbying companies, through the Centre for Energy Efficiency and Conservation (CEEC), to use innovative methods to generate cheaper and cleaner energy to cut costs and conserve the environment.

Ms Mary Kiema, the executive officer at KAM and coordinator for CEEC, said 235 participating firms under the programme have saved about 59 megawatts of energy valued at Sh10.2 billion in the past 10 years.

Huge interest

The cost of producing one watt of electricity from solar is between Sh191.4 and Sh208.8 (\$2.2 and \$2.4). Therefore, generating 1MW of power is estimated to cost the investor up to Sh208.8 million (\$2.4 million) for a return on investment of about seven years.

“The interest is huge, but some companies are unable to raise the financing. This is an issue that needs to be addressed. Such companies can now engage us to discuss the lease model,” added Mr Lawrence.

The Williamson Tea solar park is the largest in the region and could trigger more interest in industrial scale solar parks.

Optimal performance

Solar power is, however, largely used for domestic purposes in the region.

The perception is that large-scale solar power parks can only be effective in areas that experience long sunny conditions such as northern Kenya. However, this is not the case as new technology ensures optimal performance even in areas that experience long cloudy weather patterns.

Advertisement

37. Kenya: Power bills shock as new tariffs set to start next month | Daily Nation

Source URL: <http://www.nation.co.ke/business/Electricity-bills-new-tariffs-July/-/996/2341700/-/i4ocu/-/index.html>

By VICTOR JUMA

Consumer electricity bills are set to rise steeply next month when the second phase of the billing structure that the energy sector regulator set last December comes into force. This will add to the burden of rising cost of living that started in January.

Middle-class households and industrial consumers will bear the highest burden when electricity distributor Kenya Power[2] brings the new tariffs into force, raising their monthly bills by at least 10 per cent.

Households consuming 200 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity this month will, for instance, pay at least Sh4,712.5 up from the Sh4,302.3 they would have paid based on the current tariffs, a 10 per cent jump if the variable components remain fairly stable.

Small commercial entities using 15,000 kWh of power will pay Sh396,549 or 10 per cent more than the Sh360,249 they would have paid under the current tariff regime.

The escalation in billings is linked to the planned increase in the fixed charge – payable regardless of consumption levels — and the energy charge, which account for half of the monthly power costs.

The fixed charge for domestic consumers will rise to Sh150 next month from the current Sh120 while the energy charge per kWh will rise to Sh13.68 from Sh11.62.

Commercial firms consuming up to 15,000 kWh will pay Sh14 in energy charge per kWh next month, up from the current Sh12 they have been paying since last December.

The new tariffs will remain in place until July next year when the energy charge is expected to drop marginally for the various categories of consumers. Fixed charges will either remain unchanged or rise further for industrial firms.

The looming cost escalation will stand in stark contrast to the decline in power bills that Energy secretary Davis Chirchir had promised consumers six months ago when the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) set the new tariffs regime.

38. Kenya: Residents Warn Wind Power Firm On Project | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406111018.html>

June 11, 2014

By George Murage

RESIDENTS of Kinangop in Nyandarua county have issued a 14-day ultimatum to a foreign company working on a 61-megawatt wind power project.

They want the firm to leave the area. During a meeting held in Magumu on Monday, the residents directed staff of the Kinangop Wind Park Project to stop operations. They said the Sh13 billion project will not benefit them. Kinangop MP Stephen Kinyanjui said farmers were conned into the "unworkable" project.

He called for the revocation of the project licence. The firm's CEO James Wakaba denied the allegations and said several meetings were held before the project began. "We have heard the concerns of the people and we are ready to go back to the drawing board and address the issues raised," he said.

39. Kenya: Solar Lights Seller Cuts Prices On Vat Exemption | The Star

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406031206.html>

June 3, 2014

By Constant Munda, 3 June 2014

A Nairobi-based solar lights distributor has slashed its retail prices by 16 per cent to match last month's exemption from the Value Added Tax after the 2013 Act was amended.

The amendment exempts solar-powered equipment and gadgets from the VAT in a bid to promote use of clean and renewable energy. Sunny Money, which is ran by London-based charity SolarAid, said this has effectively reduced costs hence its move to pass on the benefit to buyers of its solar lights.

"Removing VAT on solar products reduces the cost to consumers. The poorest people in Kenya need access to solar lights and phone chargers at the lowest price possible," Sunny Money's operations director Linda Wamune said in a statement on Sunday.

SolarAid states on its website that solar lights cost as little as \$10 (Sh878) and "pay for themselves after 12 weeks and last for five years".

The United Nations Environment Programme, based in Nairobi's Gigiri, estimates that Kenya would save up to \$896 million (Sh78.67 billion) annually if it switched to off-grid lighting.

Sunny Money, which retails the Pico brand of lights and mobile phone chargers, has projected it will double its revenue this year if it sold 300,000 gadgets. It is carrying out marketing campaigns in schools across the country.

"Every time we sell a solar light, our customers stop using kerosene-based lighting ... saving on average up to 25 per cent of their monthly earnings," said Wamune.

40. Kenya: Solar panel makers want imports taxed | Daily Nation

Source URL: <http://www.nation.co.ke/business/Solar-panel-makers-want-imports-taxed/-/996/2342598/-/o31wflz/-/index.html>

By CHARLES WOKABI

Local manufacturers of solar products are holding their breath hoping that the government will, through Thursday's budget speech, revoke its decision to exempt imported panels from the Value Added Tax. Investors are opposed to the exemption, which they say gives importers of finished products undue advantage.

The directive, which took effect on May 29, means that traders importing *finished* solar products are excused from the 16 per cent VAT and can, therefore, price their products lower than what is available locally. This, local firms claim, is hurting investments and could force foreign investors, who have set up factories here, to relocate.

UNEVEN FIELD

"We are now operating at a disadvantage since our products are more expensive than the imported products. If the situation is not corrected, we anticipate a drop of about 50 per cent in sales. This will

definitely upset investors,” Ubbink East Africa Limited managing director Haijo Kuper told the Nation in an interview.

The company, jointly owned by Dutch firm Ubbink B.V. and Kenya’s Largo Investments, produces solar products at its Naivasha factory.

Mr Kuper said that while the exemption was intended to trigger a drop in the products’ prices and hence make them more affordable, it could result in the industry’s collapse and consequently loss of jobs.

“As it is now, we are competing on uneven field, which is really bad for us as we risk running out of business,” Mr Kuper said.

Industry stakeholders have been lobbying for a review of the National Treasury’s decision and are hoping the matter will be addressed when Cabinet Secretary Henry Rotich presents the budget.

41. Liberia: LEC Disconnects 10,000 Homes | New Democrat

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406120665.html>

By Stephen Binda

June 12, 2014

The abrupt disconnection of thousands of citizens by the management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) has triggered stiff reaction from the Senate, with LEC management being probed. The move followed a complaint from Montserrado County Senator Geraldine Doe Sheriff who condemned the LEC.

The management of LEC recently reached a decision to cut-off all costumers following verification of fraud by several residents in the area. LEC's Executive Director for Administration and Human Resources, Vamunyah F. Sheriff said increasing power theft costs U\$4,000 daily and U\$200,000 monthly losses.

"The losses account for 15 to 20 percent or more, which represents U\$200,000 monthly to the company," he said at a recent press conference on Bushord Island. But in her communication last week, Senator Sheriff described the shutdown, as an embarrassment, which she said, seems to affect even legitimate customers on the grid. The only structure still on LEC's grid in the area is the Redemption Hospital.

"More than 10,000 private homes and businesses are being affected as a result of LEC's decision," she told the Senate. The Montserrado county lawmaker said, New Kru Town remains a heavily populated terrain, faced with several challenges, which make electricity a paramount concern.

She said the generalization that all residents of the area are involved in 'current theft' is unfortunate and LEC needs to give some answers. She condemned 'power theft' which according to her has the propensity to derail government's effort in raising revenue.

Tuesday's complaint was however debated with senators endorsing the investigation. The Senate committees on Lands, Mines and Energy, Judiciary are heading the investigation. The committees' findings are expected to be presented to the full body this week.

42. Liberia: Official - LEC Loses 4,000 to Power Theft Daily | Heritage

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406100877.html>

June 10, 2014

By Calvin Brooks, 10 June 2014

Acting Information Minister Robert Kpadeh has disclosed that a power audit conducted by the Liberia Electricity Corporation (LEC) across Monrovia shows the New Kru Town Community is the highest user of power in Monrovia.

He said the power audit also established that the New Kru Town is involved in power theft, a situation which, he lamented, is causing the LEC to lose over US\$4,000 daily.

Acting Minister Kpadeh made the disclosure Saturday at his Capitol Building office in an interview the Liberia News Agency.

He said power theft is robbing LEC of needed resources to build its capacity to expand services to other parts of Monrovia and the country where people are in dire need of electricity.

Meanwhile, Kpadeh has disclosed that the LEC has disconnected the entire New Kru Town, saying that it will remain disconnected until a technical probe is conducted and measures put in place to prevent power theft by community dwellers.

Minister Kpadeh called on those involved in power theft or contemplating such act to desist immediately, as this is impeding the growth of the LEC and undermining its ability to provide efficient services.

The acting Minister described the move by LEC to disconnect New Kru Town as in the right direction, and urged Liberians to report anyone found engaging in power theft.

43. Liberia: World Bank Reaffirms Support to Electricity Connection | Heritage

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406020586.html>

The Country Director of the World Bank to Liberia, Madam Inguna Dobraja, has reaffirmed the Bank's committed to supporting the government's effort to increasing access to electricity throughout Liberia.

According to Madam Dobraja, the Bank strongly believes that striking a balance for electricity service provision between rural and urban areas is critical to ensuring inclusiveness for a more equal and just society that the Government of Liberia (GoL) is trying to achieve.

The World Bank Country Manager's statement was contained in a speech delivered the Bank's Senior Operations Officer, Madam Coleen Littlejon, at the launch of the Lighting Lives in Liberia (LLL) project scale-up phase.

The launch of the (LLL) project scale-up phase was held at the Golden Gate Hotel in Paynesville, outside Monrovia recently.

"This solar project is part of the broader support provided by the World Bank to Liberia in bringing electricity to rural and urban areas.

On the urban side, the Bank has supported the government's aggressive commitment to connect new customers in Monrovia. This is done through providing financing for transaction and distribution, for 10

megawatt thermal power plant that will increase the country's current installed capacity to 50% and for the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) CLGS regional transmission line that will connect Liberia to regional energy markets," said the World Bank official.

"On the rural side, in 2009 the Bank supported the government in establishing Liberia's first-ever Rural and Renewable Energy Agency (RREA) as a functioning agency to bring modern energy services to the country's rural areas," she added.

For his part, the Executive Director of RREA, Mr. Augustus Guanue, said the scale-up phase of the project will build on activities of the pilot phase, which ended on February 14 of this year.

He disclosed that over 16,000 lighting products were imported and marketed during the pilot phase of the project.

He pointed out that the objectives of the scale-up phase is to create the commercial market for modern high quality solar lights, and to commercially market and sell about 100,000 solar lighting products.

44. Nigeria: Banks Invest N116 Billion in 36 Power Projects | Vanguard

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406100391.html?viewall=1>

June 10, 2014

By Michael Eboh

Banks in Nigeria have invested about N115.73 billion in the funding of 36 power projects across the country in the last four years, under the Power and Airline Intervention Fund, PAIF.

According to the report of activities of the Development Finance Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, out of the total sum of N300 billion approved for the financing of power and airline projects, N233.16 billion was released to the Bank of Industry, BoI, and disbursed through banks with the 36 power projects getting N115.73 billion.

The report compiled by the Board and Publication office of the Development Finance Department, explained that PAIF was designed as part of the quantitative easing measure to address the paucity of long-term credit and acute power shortage in the country.

Giving a breakdown of the amount, the report noted that total net amount released stood at N233.161 billion; total amount disbursed to banks stood at N233.161 billion; amount approved for release to the BoI -- N237.23 billion, while the balance of unutilised PAIF fund stood at N62.77 billion.

The report further disclosed that total repayment stood at N32.363 billion, noting, however, that no repayment was remitted by the BoI to CBN under the PAIF in the month of May, 2014.

For the first quarter of 2014, the CBN said a total of N508.00 million was disbursed under PAIF from January to March, 2014.

The CBN stated that total repayments from 10 power projects stood at N3.199 billion as at the first quarter of 2014.

In the revised guidelines for the N300 billion Intervention Fund, the CBN said the objective of the fund is to fast-track the development of electric power projects, especially in the identified industrial clusters in the country.

It further stated that the fund is aimed at serving as a credit enhancement instrument to improve the financial position of the Deposit Money Banks (DMBs).

Continuing, it said, "Other objectives are to improve power supply, generate employment, and enhance the living standard of the citizens through consistent power supply and also provide leverage for additional private sector investments in the power and aviation sectors."

The Bank of Industry is the managing agent of the fund and is responsible for the day to day administration of the fund, while the Africa Finance Corporation, AFC is the Technical Adviser to the fund.

For power projects to qualify, the CBN said the fund is for "any corporate entity, duly registered in Nigeria, involved in electricity power supply value chain that includes power generation, transmission, distribution, gas-to-power projects and associated services.

"Eligible projects can be promoted by private or public sector sponsors (or a combination of both) but must be structured either as profit-oriented business or a public service, provided that contracted cash-flows or financing support exist to ensure repayment of principal and interest, as well as long term viability.

"The project company may also offer appropriate credit enhancement options to support its financial obligations. The project could be already existing and in operation, in design/development, under construction, or existing but operationally inactive."

"The refinancing of existing loans for captive power projects for corporate entities that are not power companies will only be eligible if the investments are not older than two years from the date of the application.

"For the avoidance of doubt, this restriction will not be applicable to captive power projects implemented and managed by power companies

"Gas-to-Power promoters must tender verifiable evidence of off-taker purchase agreements for their projects to be eligible.

45. Nigeria: BPE seeks electricity transformers manufacturing company in Nigeria | Nigerian Tribune

Source URL: <http://tribune.com.ng/news/news-headlines/item/7205-bpe-seeks-electricity-transformers-manufacturing-company-in-nigeria/7205-bpe-seeks-electricity-transformers-manufacturing-company-in-nigeria>

June 06, 2014

Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Mr Benjamin Ezra Dikki, has advised Shanghai Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Engineering Company Limited (SPTDE) to take advantage of the absence of electricity transformers manufacturing company in Nigeria to establish one.

Receiving a team from the company led by its Nigerian partner, Kenneth Awara of Beresford Electric Power Limited which paid him a courtesy visit in Abuja, Dikki noted that at present, there was no company in Nigeria producing electricity transformers and allied products.

He said the reforms in the power sector had opened up a vast market in the electricity sector and the Bureau was willing to assist genuine investors to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the sector.

The DG maintained that liberalisation of the power sector and others had given confidence to investors in the Nigerian economy and that should Shanghai "decide to establish an electricity transformers company in

Nigeria, the Bureau will assist the company to link up with the relevant government institutions that will grant approvals and licenses”.

On power generation, Dikki stated that the estimated power requirement was 40,000 megawatts while the nation had installed capacity of 11,000 megawatts, thus the investment opportunities were here.

Earlier, the Vice General Manager of the Shanghai Electric Power Transmission and Distribution Engineering Company Limited, Mr Victor King, noted that Nigeria had a huge market with its status as the first in Gross Domestic Product (GPD) in Africa.

He said the company intended to take advantage of the huge market to establish its presence in the country and that currently it was in talks with the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to establish areas of collaboration.

SPTDE is a specialized professional engineering company in the Shanghai Engineering Company (SEC)’s power transmission & distribution group. It was established in 1986 and its core business are, power generation, power transmission & distribution, Heavy .

46. Nigeria: FG to Invest U.S. \$1.6 Billion in Power Transmission | Daily Independent

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406130074.html>

The Federal Government on Thursday said it would invest 1.6 billion dollars to upgrade and expand the power transmission network. The Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, made this known when a delegation of the Bankers' Forum visited him in his office in Abuja.

Nebo said the investment, which was to ensure stable power supply in the country, had been approved by the National Economic Council. He said the fund would be sourced from the proceeds of the National Integrated Power Projects (NIPP) in the country.

Nebo said the Federal Government would also source 500 million dollars from the World Bank and 150 million dollars from African Development Bank (AfDB) to turn around the sector.

He said that the renewed vigor was geared toward infrastructure development of the transmission sub-sector, which was important to power supply chain.

The minister described transmission as the life-wire in the electricity value chain, and expressed government's commitment to expanding transmission capacity to 120 per cent of generation. He said the Federal government was also trying to address the issue of gas challenge to the power plants and adequate funding for the sector as a whole.

Nebo called on the banking sector to intensify their partnership with the Federal Government and private investors in the sector as a way of fast tracking its development. He stressed the need for the banking sector to help genuine investors and individuals willing to invest in the sector with loans.

Earlier, Mr Ifie Sekibo, Managing Director, Heritage Bank and Chairman of the forum, said that the visit was to show their support for the transformation of the power sector. Sekibo pledged the forum's continued support for the sector, and called on other stakeholders to join the transformation train. He stressed the

need for government to tackle the issue of gas challenge, infrastructure decay and adequate funding for the sector to make it more vibrant. (NAN)

47. Nigeria: Lagos Canvasses Conservation of Energy, Power Resources | This Day

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406120573.html>

June 12, 2014

By Gboyega Akinsanmi

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola has canvassed conservation of energy and power resources in the state, noting that it will help in managing the degree of power usage and reduce what each household spend on energy consumption.

Also, the governor said his administration had been exploring challenges in the country's power sector to create prosperity through development of manpower and technical capacity required to effectively unlock opportunities in the sector.

He disclosed this at the 2014 power kids award ceremony organised by the state's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and the State Electricity Board to encourage students in public schools to start developing capacity in the area of power technology and energy infrastructure among others.

A student of Ijaiye Ojokoro Junior High School, Miss Titilope Bamgboye, emerged the winner of the 2014 power kids contest, which the governor said, was designed to stir up students in public schools "to whatever they want to be by just dreaming it and working towards it."

He said the role of the government was "to continue to hold the kids by the hands and guide their steps in the journey to the future. We have seen that from very modest beginnings, we can produce great scientists.

"I have seen the efforts to build a power crane; make the motorized taxi and develop a blender from essentially scraps. It all tells me when we start producing the right kind of steel; the right kind of plastics and the petro-chemical plant are up and running, then there is nothing beyond you because you have the power to imagine and to dream."

He added that the power kids initiative was already producing very obvious results of awareness about power and that a similar initiative that was started about two years ago was also bearing fruits as products of the Samsung Academy in the state were graduating and were getting straight into work.

He said the state was transforming challenges in the power sector "into opportunities and opportunities into prosperity. But the power kids have a responsibility to protect the club so that it could be passed on to the next generation."

He said he could not belong to the power club because it did not happen in his own time but that there was nothing mystical about energy and electricity, noting that it was all about education mixed with fun and that the initiative "is a message that is creeping across the state and hopefully across the country."

Fashola urged the participants "to take away the lesson that all of things that are not enough can still go round many more people if they are conserved and that the campaign continues about conserving energy and saving money.

He said if the people could conserve with telephones, it could be done with anything, adding that he is very much aware that in the process of conservation of credit units on the telephone, Nigerians have developed a language called "flash" that does not exist in any other parts of the world where cell phones are used. "But what is essential about flashing is that people are conserving their credit unit and I hope we will take that sense of conservation into power, into water and into many other materials, recycling, reusing and conserving" he said.

48. Nigeria: Nerc Didn't Consult Before Tariff Hike - NLC | Daily Independent Source

URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406110405.html>

June 10, 2014

By Obas Esiedesa

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has accused the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) of failing to consult with consumers before the recent hike in electricity tariff.

NLC President, Abdulwaheed Omar who spoke at a stakeholders meeting organized NERC in Abuja, noted that the regulatory body increased tariff without due consultation with the NLC and members of the public.

NERC had in late May announced marginal increase in the unit cost of electricity for some categories of customers across the country. NERC explained then that the increase which resulted mainly from low energy generation capacity was needed to attract more investment into the sector. But NLC disagreed with NERC, insisting that Nigerians are tired of excuses from the operators of the sector.

Omar who noted that NERC must equate access to electricity with affordability, urged NERC to properly investigate the activities of the Distribution Companies (Discos) which according to him, bill customers based on estimation and not on adequate metering system made available by the regulatory body.

According to him, "The rate of tariff increase is quite worrisome, and there is no proportionate increase in electricity supply. The amount of consumption should determine the rate paid by consumers, what Nigerian consumers expect is an improvement in power supply, but what they have gotten in return is a hike on electricity tariff.

"It is one thing to announce tariff rate without the capacity to enforce it, the social service component of electricity must not be laid down for profit maximization because the consumers are always at the receiving end".

Speaking at the meeting, NERC Chairman, Dr. Sam Amadi explained that the stakeholders meeting was organised to address some pertinent issues which affects electricity consumers.

49. Nigeria: World Cup: Electricity consumers appeal for stable power supply | Guardian News

Source URL: <http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/news/national-news/164741-world-cup-electricity-consumers-appeal-for-stable-power-supply>

ELECTRICITY consumers in Lagos State have urged the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to ensure regular power supply during the forthcoming FIFA 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

The consumers who spoke to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Friday said the appeal had become necessary to enable them to enjoy the live telecast of the competition.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the World Cup will hold from June 12 to July 13, 2014.

Some of them said they had bought television sets and subscribed to Satellite Television Channels in preparation for the various telecast of the matches. Mr Wale Oladimeji, the Technical Personnel of Corsican Brothers Nigeria, sellers of Multichoice GOtv, said that the market had increased remarkably.

The technician said that the number of customers had increased by 35 percent compared to what it was before the forthcoming Mundial.

“The rate of demand for Gotv has really increased as we sell an average of 10 pieces in a day.

“Our sales has also increased in terms of the number of customers who already have decoders coming to pay for their subscription,” Oladimeji said.

He also appealed to the power holding company to improve on the power supply.

Oladimeji said that power would be the determining factor for sales in both the television and subscription.

“The electricity supply still remains the same before and after the privatisation of the power sector and there will be no sales if there is no light,” he said. Mrs Jumoke Shittu, the Managing Director, A&S Communication, a dealer for Multichoice, said that the sales of GOtv increased notwithstanding the epileptic power supply.

“We don’t have light for some time now yet our customers have increased because the World Cup is fast approaching and a lot of them also came to pay for subscription,” Shittu said.

She appealed to the electric power authority for uninterrupted power supply during the competition.

An electricity generator mechanic, Sunday Ogunyemi, told NAN that many people had also come to repair their sets. Bashir Banjo, an engineer who lives at no 3 Itunmoja Street, Ikorodu, said that he just acquired a DStv decoder to follow all the matches played during the World Cup.

“I decided to buy my own DStv component to follow all the matches, even the ones that might be played during the night instead of going to the viewing centre. Our prayer now is for the PHCN to ensure steady power though I have serviced my generator but we should consider people who cannot afford to buy generator and they have the gadget,” Banjo said

Victor Odu-Olowu, said that his DStv which he had abandoned for quite a long time now had been recharged.

“I have abandoned my DStv for long. When I realised the World Cup was about to start I rushed to recharge it and also repair my generator,” Olowu said

A teacher, Taiwo Olaleye, said she had to visit the DStv office for two days before she could pay for her subscription as a result of the increase in subscribers due to the World Cup.

“Any time I go to the DStv office I hardly spend one hour. But the last time I was there I had to line up. Then I went back because I was tired and stressed up,” Olaleye said.

50. Tanzania: Forum Demands for More Local Content in Gas Industry | Tanzania Daily News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406120207.html>

June 12, 2014

By Orton Kiishweko,

DELEGATES to the 7th Gilman Rutihinda Memorial Lecture at Bank of Tanzania (BoT) have urged that the country integrate local firms into gas multinational supply chains.

At an annual lecture aimed at discussing "Gains from the Natural Gas: Local content and Tanzania's Industrial Development," participants including financial experts, diplomats and players in the oil and gas industry agreed that there was need to build capabilities of local industries to be able to serve the multi-trillion shillings LNG expected in the industry.

Giving the main lecture in Dar es salaam on Tuesday, Prof John Sutton, the Sir John Hicks Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics, said that two factors have to be linked to include oil and gas and the domestic industry.

"In Tanzania, things in the economy have been going on well for the past decade, if this is sustained, the country can become a middle income country in a decade or so," he noted.

He said there was need to bring local industrial companies into the supply chain of global multinationals. He said the gas industry should be used to create sustainable jobs for the growing generations in the country.

This, he said, should be done through taking advantage of the supply chain, integrating local firms into international supply chain. "Global companies should source their needs locally and provide institutional support to local firms to help them grow, he noted.

He said there was need to build local capabilities using global practices. He added that focus should be on generating maximum number of good jobs by integrating local firms into the supply chain of the gas multinationals.

He said some of these can be done by a highly professional team to liaise with multinational firms in a cooperative manner and with deep understanding of both local capabilities and the feasible modes of engagement of local firms.

"You need free, equal access to opportunities. Local companies should not be displaced in the conversation," he said. Mr Beatus Rwechungura from BG, attempted to elaborate some measures his company had already taken to strengthen local content.

He explained some as taking local students on scholarships abroad and having trained 450 students thus far in conjunction with VSO in preparation for the LNG. He said that of the \$45m spent in Mtwara by BG thus far, 80 per cent of the contracts have gone to companies registered in Tanzania. In his contribution, the Executive Director of Research for Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) Prof Samuel Wangwe said local companies should find a way of managing the interim period as they build credibility to compete.

He also wanted to know the role of research institutions like Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO). The Chairman of Tanzania Bankers Association, Dr Charles Kimei, said that if the current policy direction is maintained, they in the Banking sector are optimistic they would maintain growth of over 7 percent.

"Avoid strict rules on local content, but coordination that is transparent among the government, local firms and multinationals," he said.

51. Tanzania: Railways, Roads Get Hefty Funding Priority | Tanzania Daily News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406130228.html>

By Henry Lyimo, 12 June 2014

Dodoma — THE government will set aside 6.44tr/-, an equivalent of 32.8 per cent of the 2014/15 budget for development to finance major railway and road infrastructure projects and expand the agriculture and energy sectors to spur growth.

Presenting the State of the Economy Report in Parliament today, a Minister for State in the President's Office (Social Relations and Coordination), Mr Stephen Wasira said a total of 4.4tr/-, which is equivalent to 68.7 per cent of the development budget, will come from domestic sources. To fill up the gap, the government expects a total of 2.02tr/- from outside sources being grants and loans. The amount is 33.7 per cent of the development budget, he said.

The minister said that from the funds to be obtained from domestic sources, a total of 1.289tr/- will be set aside for projects under the Big Results Now initiative where the energy sector will take 18 per cent being the largest share.

It will be followed by the construction sector which will take 13 per cent of the funds, education (9 per cent), water (9 per cent) and transportation (7 per cent).

Mr Wasira said the government had focused on rural electrification projects, completion of construction of the 512-kilometre gas pipeline from Mtwara to Dar es Salaam which is set to scale up the amount of gas transported to Dar es Salaam plants for electricity generation and supply for the country.

He said the government was also focused on Kinyerezi power generating stations that will generate 150 and 240 megawatts. Other projects prioritized by the government in the 2014/15 include Mchuchuma coal project set to generate 600 megawatts of electricity, Ngaka coal project which is projected to generate 400 megawatts of electricity, and Kiwira set to generate 200 megawatts of power.

The minister said the government would continue to improve access to water supplies in rural areas and complete projects that began in the 2013/14 financial year.

He said the government would complete laying of water pipelines from Ruvu station to Dar es Salaam which is about 20.77 kilometres and would begin construction of water infrastructure for Upper Ruvu water project.

On the railway infrastructure projects, the government would also upgrade the 37 kilometres Igalula-Tabora railway by laying concrete railway sleepers of 80 pounds per yard, he said. Eight locomotives would be rehabilitated at the Tanzania Railway Limited (TRL) workshop at Morogoro, he said, adding eleven new locomotives and 204 new cargo wagons would be bought.

The government would be looking for strategic investors for construction and improvement of Dar es Salaam-Isaka-Kigali railway, he said. He added that the government would complete survey for Tanga-Arusha-Musoma railway and complete detailed survey for Mtwara-Mbambabay and Liganga-Mchuchuma.

Mr Wasira said on road infrastructure projects, areas that have been prioritized include roads linking Tanzania and her neighbours so as to open up economic opportunities as well as roads that will ease traffic. View the discussion thread.

52. Tanzania: Singida Wind Power Project Yet to Kick Up Dust | Tanzania Daily News

Source URL: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201406090610.html>

June 7, 2014

Dodoma — NATIONAL Development Corporation (NDC) through the Ministry of Finance is seeking funds from Exim Bank of China to finance its Singida-based wind power project, the National Assembly heard on Friday.

NDC, Tanzania Electricity Supply Company and Power Pool East Africa Ltd own the multibillion power project at the ratio of 60, 20 and 20 per cent, respectively. The project, located at Mughamo, Unyankanya and Kisasida villages, about 12 kilometres East of Singida municipality, will generate 50MW in the first phase and will later undergo expansion to generate 300MW.

Deputy Minister for Energy and Minerals Charles Kitwanga said the initial investment cost of the 50MW and installation of infrastructure for the 160MW is estimated at 136 million US dollars (over 200bn/-).

The deputy minister was responding to a question posed by Christina Lissu (Special Seats--Chadema) who wanted to know the progress of the project and the exact date of completion.

He said the project which is among the priority areas under the big result now initiative is set for completion in the 2015/16 financial year. Meanwhile, government will support electrification of all villages of Kishapu constituency, subject to availability of funds.

Answering a question asked by Suleiman Nchambi (Kishapu--CCM) who wanted to know government's plan to supply electricity to the constituency's 122 villages, Mr Kitwanga said only 19 out of the 122 villages have been covered in the second phase of rural electrification strategic plan. Under the over 4bn/- power project at the 19 villages, a total of 963 consumers will be connected initially.